

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY - BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

Please send completed form to: Stacey Vairo, National Register and State Register Coordinator,
State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, One Constitution Plaza,
2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

* Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common) Alder Brook Cemetery
Building Name (Historic) Alder Brook Cemetery
Street Address or Location Boston Street
Town/City Guilford Village _____ County New Haven
Owner(s) Alder Brook Cemetery Association C/O James Sullivan ☒ Public ☐ Private

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Burial Ground
Historic Use: Burial Ground

Accessibility to public: Exterior visible from public road? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Interior accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain Public Cemetery

Style of building Assorted Date of Construction 1818 (Helander)

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):

☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding
☐ Fieldstone ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone ☐ Aluminum Siding
☐ Concrete (Type _____) ☐ Cut Stone (Type _____) ☐ Other _____

Structural System

☐ Wood Frame ☐ Post & Beam ☐ Balloon ☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other _____

Roof (Type)

☐ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ Sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other _____

(Material)

☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Asphalt Shingle
☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other _____

Number of Stories: _____ Approximate Dimensions _____

Structural Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Exterior Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

Location Integrity: On original site ☐ Moved ☐ When? _____

Alterations? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, explain: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Town # _____ Site # _____ UTM _____

District: ☐ S ☐ NR ☐ If NR, Specify: ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

PROPERTY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Related outbuildings or landscape features:

☐ Barn ☒ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Carriage House ☐ Shop ☐ Garden
☐ Other landscape features or buildings: _____

Surrounding Environment:

☐ Open land ☐ Woodland ☒ Residential ☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Rural
☐ High building density ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site

- Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

This cemetery consists of a 20.54 acre parcel located on the south side of Boston Street. It is in between where Boston Street intersects with Goose Lane to the east and South Union Street to the west. The area around the cemetery is residential although running parallel to Boston Street to the north is Boston Post Road with primarily commercial buildings. The Guilford Green is located almost one mile to the southwest. (See Continuation Sheet)

- Other notable features of building or site (Interior and/or Exterior)

The tombstones in this cemetery are laid out in mostly rows in the square, rectangular, and two circular sections. Most of the stones are low and modest yet there are still several larger monument type grave markers, some being Celtic crosses and many obelisks. The oldest section of tombstones are located on the north and west side, although small groups of older stones, family plots, are located in a couple scattered areas. (See Continuation Sheet)

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

- Historical or Architectural importance:

The nearby Guilford Green was the original and earliest burial ground for the town. The last burial was done there in 1818. A resolve of the Connecticut General Assembly incorporated "The Proprietors of the Burying Ground in Guilford" in October of 1818 when many of the markers from the Green were transferred there. This cemetery was known as East Side or Alder Brook, because of its location east of the borough. Thomas Burgis' deed to the original cemetery plot is dated July 1, 1818. The cemetery was first enlarged in 1865 with a formal dedication. In 2009, a Native American man who died 500 to 1,000 years ago was buried on the northeast side of the cemetery. (See Continuation Sheet)

- Sources:

Helander, Joel Eliot, "A Treasury of Guilford Places," Guilford, CT: Joel Helander, 2008; Property card obtained at <http://www.propertyrecordcards.com/PropertyResults.aspx?towncode=060&uniqueid=8601> on November 16, 2015; Misur, Susan, "Final Resting Place Found in Guilford for Old Bones", New Haven Register, December 15, 2009.

Photographer Jordan Sorensen Date 08/17/2015
View See Continuation Sheet Negative on File _____
Name Jordan Sorensen Date 11/16/2015
Organization Guilford Preservation Alliance
Address PO Box 199 Guilford, CT 06437

- Subsequent field evaluations:

Latitude: 41.286865
Longitude: -72.668701

Threats to the building or site:

☒ None known ☐ Highways ☐ Vandalism ☐ Developers ☐ Renewal ☐ Private
☐ Deterioration ☐ Zoning ☐ Other _____ ☐ Explanation _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Boston Street

Surroundings Continued

Sandstone markers removed from the Green are built into and leaning against the stone wall along Boston Street. The landscape has scattered shrubs located within the cemetery and trees lining the east, south, and west perimeters. The topography is fairly flat and one can see across the whole cemetery from any spot. The dirt roads that run through the cemetery are laid out in somewhat of a grid fashion with two long entrance/exits roads connecting with Boston Street on the north side. A stone wall lines the north perimeter with Boston Street.

Notable Features

These stones have some common motifs including many winged cherubs, some winged death's heads or skulls, and a couple of urns on the later of the oldest stones. Throughout the nineteenth century, the motifs changed to a willow and urn or they were just plain. There are also several stones with the freemason symbol on them. A section on the west side, almost halfway back when entering through the west side driveway, is reserved for cremation burials and marked with a stone that reads, "Alder Brook Cremation Section." After moving further south, a shed type stone building is located on the west side. It has two six over six hung sash windows with a door in the middle. The doorway has a decorative iron grate in front of it and a tall arched window on the north side.

Historical/Architectural Significance Continued

After the skeletal remains were found on a construction site fifty years prior, the man was finally laid to rest with a traditional Native American ceremony at Alder Brook.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Boston Street



Looking southeast



Looking south



Looking southwest



Looking northwest

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Boston Street



Looking northeast



Example of early stone cherub motif