



West Hartford's NORTH CEMETERY

Listed on the State
Register of Historic Places

Established in the era of the Early American Republic and used through the Victorian period, North Cemetery is characterized by spacious grounds and romanticized gravestone designs.



OLD NORTH CEMETERY
THIS GRAVEYARD WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1790, WHEN THOMAS MERRELL OF THE WEST DIVISION PARISH (WEST HARTFORD) SOLD THREE QUARTERS OF AN ACRE TO THE TOWN OF HARTFORD. FROM TIME TO TIME THERE WERE ADDITIONS. THE LAST IN 1852. WEST HARTFORD ACQUIRED OWNERSHIP UPON BECOMING A TOWN IN 1854. THE CEMETERY CONTAINS GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS AND IN 1957 A BOULDER AND BRONZE PLAQUE WERE DEDICATED BY THE SARAH WHITMAN HOOKER CHAPTER, D.A.R. IN MEMORY OF ALL REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS BURIED IN WEST HARTFORD. HERE ALSO ARE BURIED LOCAL MEN WHO SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR. A MONUMENT PLACED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT RECORDS THE NAMES OF WEST HARTFORD MEN WHO DIED IN SERVICE DURING THAT WAR AND ARE NOT BURIED IN TOWN.

7. Potter's Field (No photo) Lot 117 1/2

Town governments are responsible for burying indigent individuals. Black and white residents alike were interred in this plot through the 1950s. No marker exists.



8. Revolutionary War Monument, 1957

Stonework: Beij & Williams Company, Hartford.
Bronze Plaque: McAdoo Foundry, New Britain
Unnumbered Lot, front of north section facing Main Street

Boulder and bronze plaque costing \$775 was dedicated by the Sarah Whitman Hooker Chapter D.A.R. in memory of Rev. War soldiers buried in WH. 32 Rev. War veterans are known to be buried here.

9. Kate E. Griswold (1860-1923)

Lot location unknown

Pioneer of advertising journalism, editor, ad writer, publisher and proprietor of *Profitable Advertising*, a trade journal for advertisers from 1895-1909 with offices in Boston and New York. Born in WH and grad of WH high school.

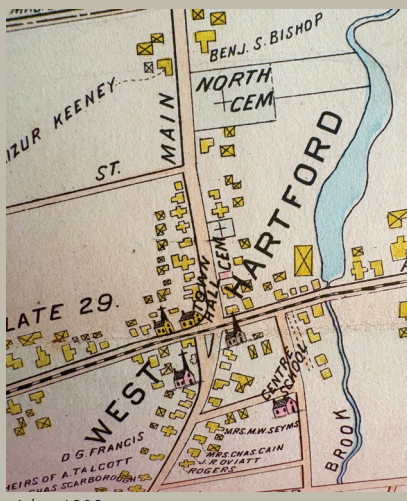
Wikipedia
July, 1899



Wikipedia

1790 SECTION (SOUTHWEST CORNER)

Oldest section of North Cemetery, est. in 1790 when Thomas Merrill of Hartford's West Division (now West Hartford) sold 3/4 of an acre to the Town of Hartford.



Atlas, 1909

Grave markers are set in loose rows. Many descendants of WH's earliest families have stones here, including the Keeney, Brace, Talcott, Colton, Flagg, and Barber families. It should be noted that many of the earliest families of WH were enslavers. Find out more at Hidden History: noahwebsterhouse.org/hidden-history/.

1800s SECTION (CENTER/NORTH)

The cemetery was expanded at least twice: one acre was added in 1839; a final five acres in 1852. WH acquired ownership upon becoming a town in 1854. A Burying Ground Committee was appointed to manage the sale of plots and the upkeep of the grounds. Name was changed in 1893 to Cemetery Committee. 269 numbered lots are shown on the 1930s Hale map. Open area in the northwest corner remained unused due to wet soil. By 1894 the town opened its third cemetery, Fairview.

MEMORIAL DAY

COMMEMORATIONS

From about 1901 to at least 1963, North Cemetery was a focal point of the Memorial Day parade. Speeches and commemorative ceremonies were held there and in later



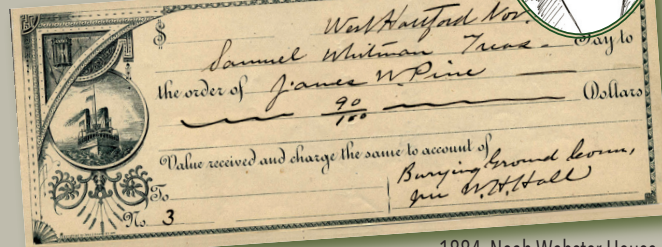
Circa 1910, Noah Webster House

years, the parade would then move to Unity Green for a flag raising ceremony. The cemetery holds many veterans from the French & Indian War (1754 - 1763) to World War II. WH's memorials to the town's men who served in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War are included.

JAMES W. PINE (1839-1907), SEXTON AND GRAVEDIGGER

Brett Freiburger, contributor, WH Public Library Local History Room

Pine was a free-born Black man who came to WH with his family following a career in Danbury as a hatmaker, poet, and lecturer. Admitted to First Church, West Hartford in 1872, he worked as a laborer and public grave digger.



1884, Noah Webster House

Appointed official sexton for First Church in 1903, he served until his death recording births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths of congregation members. Many of Pine's poems from his later years memorialize those he helped lay to rest. He was eulogized in *The Hartford Courant* as "the Negro Poet." The Pine family continued to live in WH until the 1950s when his son, George, was buried in Fairview Cemetery.

West Hartford's NORTH CEMETERY

THANK YOU to the West Hartford Cemetery office staff for their assistance.

West Hartford Cemetery Office:

200 Whitman Avenue West Hartford, CT 06107 860-561-8136

Office Hours: 9am-12pm; 1-3PM

westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/fairview-cemetery

FIND-A-GRAVE is a free online database. It contains over 1,680 records for North Cemetery. findagrave.com

ARCHIVES

Local History Room, West Hartford Public Library,
20 South Main St, West Hartford, CT

WEST HARTFORD HISTORIES

From Colonial Parish to Modern Suburb, A brief appreciation of West Hartford, Nelson R. Burr, Revised edition (West Hartford: Noah Webster Foundation and West Hartford Historical Society, 1982).

Life in West Hartford, Tracey M. Wilson (West Hartford: Noah Webster Foundation and West Hartford Historical Society, 2018).

West Hartford, William H. Hall (West Hartford: The West Hartford Chamber of Commerce, 1930).

CREDITS:

Map was adapted from the Charles Hale map at the Connecticut State Library.

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West Hartford's NORTH CEMETERY

*A Self-Guided Tour
of Notables & Memorials*

60 North Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut



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West Hartford's NORTH CEMETERY

Notables & Memorials



1. Rev. Nathan Perkins (1748-1838), wife Catherine Pitkin Perkins (1757-1837), daughter Julia Perkins
Alter Stone/Box Tomb, 1790s Section

The solid, raised tomb resembles ceremonial altars of classical antiquity and Judeo-Christian tradition. Made of brownstone ornamented with carved foliate volutes.

Pastor of the First Church, WH for 66 years from 1772 to 1838. Strong supporter of the Amer. Rev. and opponent of slavery. Preached about 4,000 sermons.

2. William Thompson Sedgwick (1855-1921), wife Mary Katrine Rice Sedgwick (1859-1928) *Lot 9*
MIT professor and leader in the field of public health. Author of many important public health textbooks and a 1914 *The New York Times* editorial arguing against feminism. WH middle school named after him.

Find-A-Grave



Circa 1904, Noah Webster House



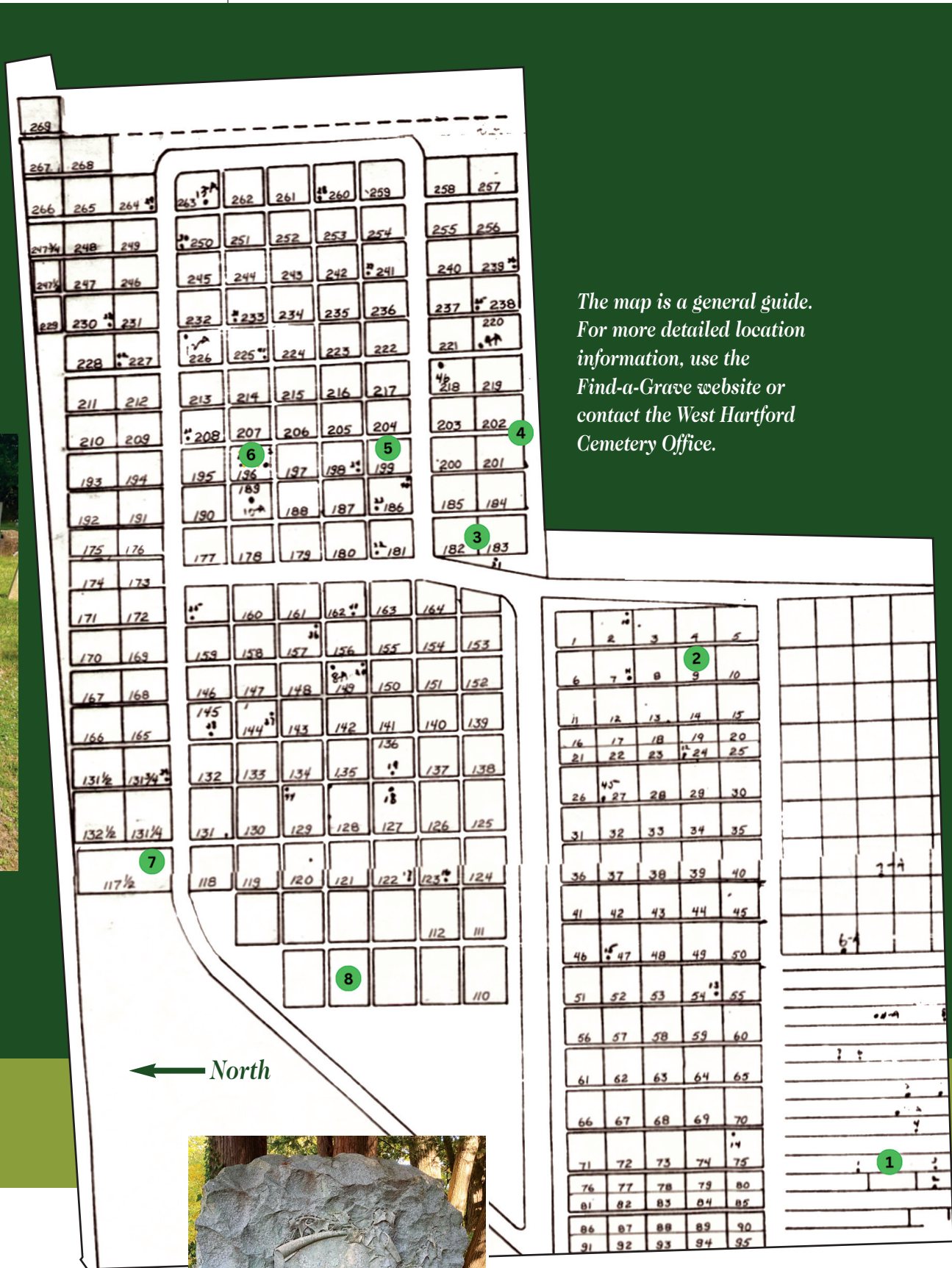
3. Civil War Monument Cenotaph, 1904
Stonework: Stephen Maslen Company, Hartford
Lots 182-183

Funded by the State of CT, the monument cost \$160. The west side reads "...in memory of the men of WH who offered up their lives...in the Civil War... whose bodies were never brought home for burial,"



followed by 10 names. On the east side, the memorial quotes from Thomas O'Hara's 1847 *The Bivouac of the Dead*. Dedicated on May 31, 1904 by William Hall, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. At least 40 CW veterans known to be buried here.

Hartford City Directory, 1906



The map is a general guide. For more detailed location information, use the Find-a-Grave website or contact the West Hartford Cemetery Office.

4. Adolph C. Sternberg (1839-1913), wife Francesa Stoekel Sternberg (1848-1917)
Lots 201-202

German immigrant, farmer, local judge, state legislator, and one of CT's first highway commissioners. A driving force for WH's move to a town council municipal system. His huge granite grave marker is carved with ivy symbolizing fidelity, eternal love, friendship, and resilience.

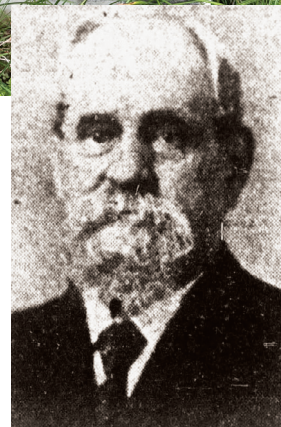


5. Mary Louise Lisbon (1836-1915), husband Jeremiah J. Lisbon (1824-1895)
Lot 199 (Granniss family plot)

A Black woman who worked as a servant for the Granniss family for almost 40 years. Married in 1893 to Jeremiah Lisbon, a barber. Her will donated \$616.53 to the Universalist Social Benefit Society for missionary work in the Black community of northern Virginia. Mary and her husband are buried in the Granniss family plot. Stephen Maslen Corp. incised the names on the family grave marker at a cost of \$3.50.



6. Frederick A. Mitchell (1841-1931), wife Sarah Kelsey Mitchell (1843-1917)
Lot 196
CW veteran credited with petitioning the State of CT to erect the WH CW memorial. Enlisted Company D, 22nd Infantry, CT Volunteers. Elected honorary pres. WH Memorial Day Assoc., 1927.



Hartford Courant