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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**MEN OF KENT CEMETERY, SCITUATE, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved Men of Kent Cemetery in Scituate for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 20, 2013, meeting. The nomination will be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, DC, for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of Men of Kent Cemetery in the National Register will help to preserve a burial ground associated with Scituate’s earliest history.”

Established ca. 1693, Men of Kent Cemetery is the oldest of the town’s fifteen known public and private burial sites. Located about a mile southeast of the present town center, the cemetery once stood at the heart of Scituate’s original settlement. The small burial ground contains gravestones carved of slate and schist, all dating to the period between 1693 and 1803. Most display elaborate carvings, including winged skulls, and can be attributed to local carvers including Jacob Vinal, Sr., and his son, Jacob Vinal, Jr., of Scituate; William Mumford of Boston; and the Soule family, who originated in Plympton, Massachusetts, but moved to Worcester and Hinsdale, New Hampshire, spreading their work around New England. Today, the site holds 75 monuments and markers, including seven monuments placed between 1889 and 2005 to commemorate individuals and families significant in the early settlement of Scituate. The Town of Scituate parks department regularly mows the cemetery and removes leaves and other debris. In general, the landscape is in very good condition. In 2007, a survey of Scituate’s burial sites identified 50 markers in Men of Kent Cemetery that are in need of conservation treatment, including cleaning, straightening, and resetting. By nominating Men of Kent Cemetery to the National Register, the town and its historical commission hope to promote a broader appreciation of the historic and artistic significance of this important resource. As the value of the cemetery becomes more widely known, the town intends to seek additional funding for continued restoration and care, including professional conservation treatment of the remaining grave markers.

Men of Kent Cemetery is one of 6 historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting.

Secretary Galvin serves as Chairman of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times a year.

The National Register is the nation’s official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 70,000 properties listed in the National Register. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has been administering the National Register of Historic Places program in Massachusetts since 1966.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important  
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historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)).

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