

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DRAFT

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Hale Cemetery
 other names/site number _____
 related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 3366 County Route 47 not for publication
 city or town Norfolk vicinity
 state NY code NY county St. Lawrence code 089 zip code 13667

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
 In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 ___ national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

DEFENSE/military facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: _____

walls: STONE

roof: _____

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Hale Cemetery is an early historic burial ground encompassing approximately 4.7 acres of land. The long end of the cemetery is divided in half from east to west by a contributing low stone wall and notable cobblestone rounded arch built in 1923 (photo #5-7). This wall divides the "old section" on the north, from the "new section" to the south. Burials in both sections are uniformly set in rows that run north-to-south with grave marker inscriptions facing west on the left (west) side of the driveway, and east-facing inscriptions on the right (east). All known burials have markers, although some are damaged or no longer decipherable. However, most markers are in fair condition considering their age and the harsh weather they have been subject to in northern New York. Lots are numbered from 1 to 198 in in the oldest section, with six rows to the west side of the driveway and seven to the east. Near the back quarter of the cemetery the pattern is broken by one row of graves running perpendicular, or east-to-west; these are numbered 199 to 207. There are a number of modern graves to the north of this row that revert to the north-to-south grid pattern on either side of the driveway, these lots number from 208 to 271 (Figure 1).

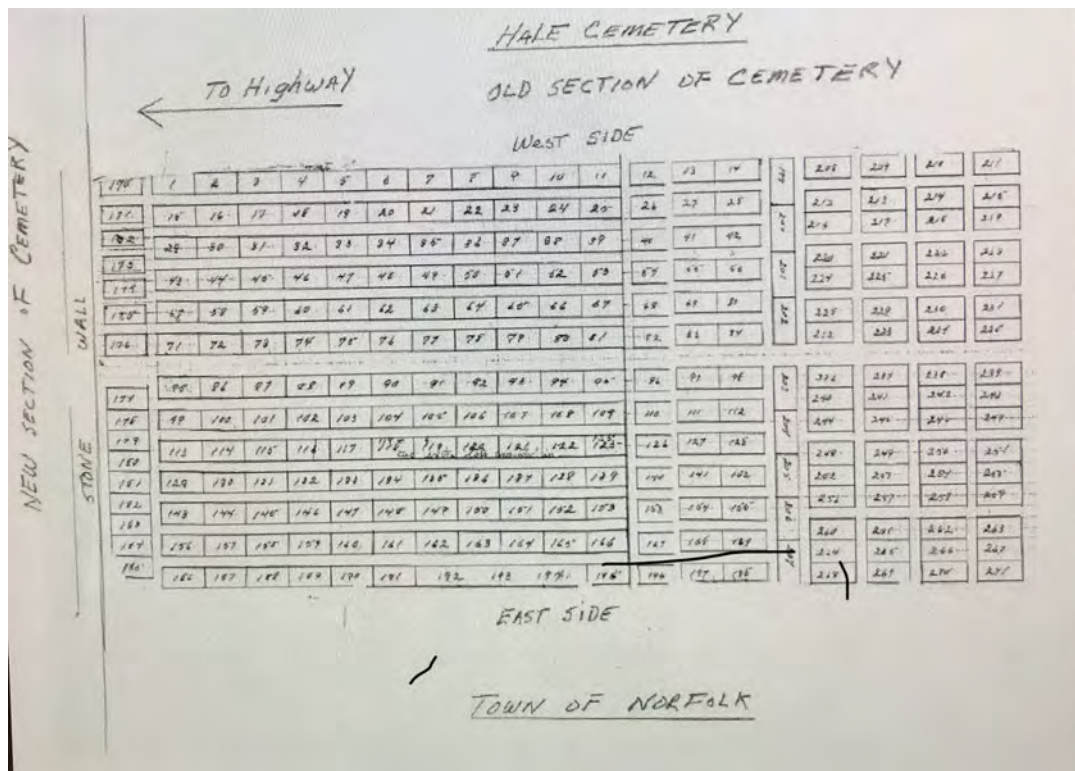


Fig. 1 Sketch map of old section plots, Hale Cemetery Association

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The “new section” to the south of the wall retains the north-to-south grid orientation, although with fewer rows on each side of the path. These number from 1 to 211 and are where the majority of modern burials are located (Figure 2).

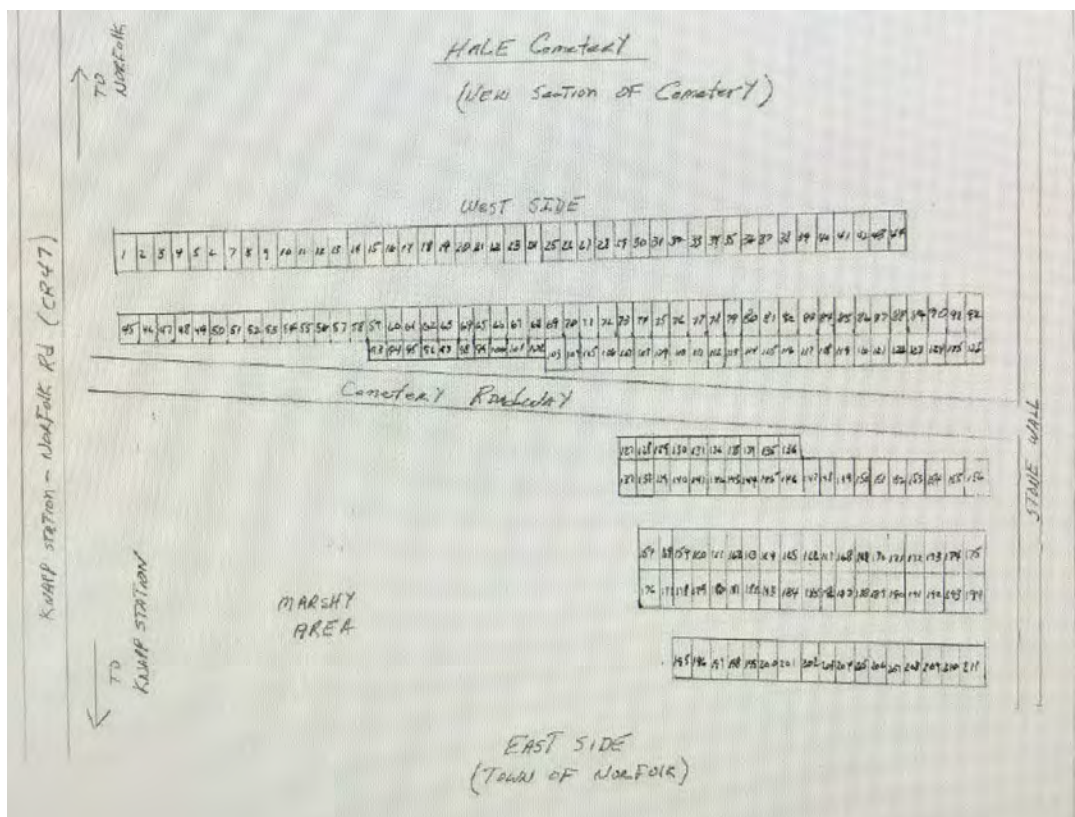


Fig. 2 Sketch map of new section, Hale Cemetery Association

There are several family plots scattered throughout the old section generally made of weathered marble and granite, and in one case a family plot has ornate iron fencing (see photo 14). The cemetery displays a wide array of funerary art – while the earliest graves are expectedly austere, markers increasingly included engraved fingers/hands, willow branches, mason symbology, wreaths, and eventually sculptural elements typical of a nineteenth century burial ground. The cemetery’s continued use for over 200 years makes it archetypal example of a rural homestead neighborhood cemetery in northern New York.

Narrative Description

Hale is an early nineteenth century burial ground located 1.5 miles southeast of the town of Norfolk in St. Lawrence County, New York. This is in the far reaches of northern New York, a rural region of the state known traditionally for its logging, tanning, farming, and shipping industries. The cemetery is located about halfway between the small towns of Norfolk and North Stockholm on Knapps Station Road, a two-lane route that runs

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on a northwest-southeast diagonal. This portion of the township is agricultural and carved into a gentle valley. There is a railroad line east of the cemetery property line, and a defunct quarry to the west. The cemetery proper is surrounded by dense trees, but beyond that is primarily agricultural fields. Hale is generally flat aside from a marshy area bisecting the southeast quadrant on either side of a small brook. An 1858 map of St. Lawrence County shows the approximate location belonging to Ira Hale, the cemetery's namesake, but historically the cemetery does not appear on maps due to its remote location outside of the town.

A single crushed stone path running north to south bisects the entire cemetery down the middle, passing under the stone arch that delineates two sections –the oldest section to the north, and the new to the south. The path begins at Knapps Station Road at the south entrance to the cemetery. Just past the cobblestone arch the crushed-stone driveway continues north, but splits direction around the perimeter of the old section. Based on the age of the earliest graves it is likely the cemetery originally was a small family or neighborhood plot in a field, and the location of burials in subsequent decades indicates that they were somewhat scattered away from each other, albeit they adhered to a geometric pattern common for cemeteries of this type at that time. The crushed path driveway is essentially a ribbon of grass worn down on either side by tires, so most likely it evolved slightly from a natural path created by early mourners navigating either side of the old section.

Hale serves as the final resting place for many of Norfolk's earliest settlers, nearly all of whom came from New England. As such, the first generation would have brought with them colonial burial practices they were familiar with from home. This is most evident by the orientation of graves in the old section. Here most of the interred face east, a leftover practice common in the eighteenth century, particularly in areas with strong Puritanical roots such as Massachusetts. As Jessie Lie Farber notes for the American Antiquarian Society, "The story goes that bodies were laid head to the west, feet to the east so that, at the sound of the dock's crow on the day of judgement, the resurrected dead would arise to face the dawn."¹ All of the carved surfaces in the old section are oriented to face away from the center path, thus on the left they are "behind" the interred, and on the east they are at the head.

The cemetery is enclosed by non-historic cedar posts with wire fencing, and just beyond this fencing the cemetery is framed by mature trees. There are a handful of deciduous and coniferous trees within the cemetery boundaries, some are original, while a few maples, elm, and poplars were added to both sections of the cemetery in 1941. This appears to be a modest attempt at landscaping in the model of memorial park cemeteries that became popular in the twentieth century. The far southeastern quadrant of the cemetery is somewhat

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marshy and bisected by a brook, so this portion remains unused. The entrance from Knapps Road includes the cedar post and wire fencing with a non-historic metal swing gate attached. There are also two vertical wooden signs to the right as one enters, the most notable of these two is made of Harbonite and documents the general history of the cemetery. It was gifted to the Hale Cemetery Association at an unknown date.

New England settlers such as the Hales, Knapps, Dykes, Bradleys, and others began using the cemetery as a local burial ground in the 1830s, although the first known extant grave is that of Hannah Thatcher in June 1823. While no graves have been moved, it is also unknown if there were burials prior to 1823 that lost their markers or were unmarked to begin with. As it was the fashion at that time, burial markers at Hale were initially simple. Those that survive are largely marble, and likely from Vermont originally, that is until local Gouverneur Marble became available in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The first graves are by and large rectangular tablets with straight, rounded, or modestly scalloped tympanums. Inscriptions from this time are straightforward engravings that list names, dates of death, and relationship to loved ones left behind. Many of these are children, a reflection on the harsh realities of life for settlers in one of the most northern reaches of the country. There are some surviving footstones from this time as well.

As early as the 1830s inklings of Victorian burial ornamentation started to become evident at Hale. The 1837 grave of Matthew L. Barney (photo #15) includes a hand with one finger lifted, beckoning his grieving loved ones to look up to heaven. This is an early example of the gravestone embellishments that overtook nearly every cemetery in America during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Barney's grave also includes a raised inscription and border on an otherwise simple marble slab, a design that became common among the graves at Hale in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Hale Cemetery primarily features headstones that are simple rectangular marble slabs, although some markers increasingly exhibited period iconography such as flowers/vines, hands/fingers, flags, and open books.

Based on information from extant markers, families were often buried adjacent to their kin, although third or fourth generations can often be found elsewhere in the old section. The most distinctly defined family plots in Hale from the nineteenth century include three-dimensional sculptural blocks as a central feature, flanked by simple slab headstones for children or other descendants. Some are topped with shrouded urns or obelisks. Notable family plots are particularly evident in the western half of the old section, including the Dyke family near the center driveway, and both the Hale and Knapp families near the stone wall (photo #13 and #14, respectively). Before the stone wall was built these graves were close to what was then the entrance, further

¹ Jessie Lie Farber, *Early American Gravestones: Introduction to the Farber Gravestone Collection*, (American

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indicating the families' prominence. Other family plots include but are not limited to the Kingsley, Adams, Nichols, and Hollis families. Two family groupings—the Knapps and Geandreaws—retain stone stanchions with metal rods or chains fencing off their plots. One somewhat unusual monument is the Brush family, who passed between 1850 and 1906 (photo #19). The size and polished granite material indicates the monument was likely erected later as a more permanent marker for the family.

After several decades it was apparent that marble was particularly susceptible to environmental factors, but with the introduction of steam power granite increasingly became a viable alternative. By the 1850s some markers, particularly notable family monuments, began to be fashioned from granite or what is likely Gouverneur Marble, known for its striated bluish-grey color. Aside from the family monuments that began to replace original gravestones, some other noteworthy burials were augmented with more resilient or grandiose markers. This is most evident in the grave of Samuel Cook Bogue, a Revolutionary War veteran said to be an associate of George Washington.² Bogue's original modest marble marker was one of the first in the cemetery upon his death in 1829. The small marble original tablet has aged relatively well and is still legible, but it is dwarfed by a significantly larger Gouverneur Marble slab placed immediately behind it decades later.

In the twentieth century granite continued to be the stone of choice and the ornate monuments of the nineteenth century largely reverted to more restrained secular shapes and designs. At Hale, granite monuments decreased in height and increased in width, and began to include double markers indicating side-by-side internments, which became a common prototype still seen today. It also became more common to see modest bronze and stone markers set flush to the ground, with approximately thirty percent of burials between 1940 and 1960 encompassing this type. A bronze plaque was also placed in front of the original marble grave of Phineas Judson, a Revolutionary War veteran who died in 1839 (photo #16).

Hale cemetery is an active cemetery that collectively portrays the wide array of funerary art and symbolism typical of the early nineteenth century to the present. In 1963 the new section to the south of the wall was plotted for burials, and another small section was added to the rear of the property after 1974. Both of the new sections are still in use. The old section included 729 burials, and the two twentieth century sections have a combined total of 290. According to the Hale Cemetery Association the cemetery contains the remains of several veterans who served in nearly all American conflicts.

Antiquarian Society, 2003), 12.

² Samuel Bogue's name was occasionally spelled Booge.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ART

SETTLEMENT/EXPLORATION

Period of Significance

1823-1974

Significant Dates

1823; 1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

George Dove and William Fletcher (masons)

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Period of Significance (justification) The period begins in 1823 when settlers near Norfolk, New York began using the burial ground and ends in 1974 representing the continued use of the cemetery into the twentieth century while also adhering to the general fifty-year guidelines of the National Register program.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) The nominated site is a cemetery; as such, Criterion D has been cited. The cemetery derives its significance from its age, for displaying the characteristics of an early nineteenth century burial ground, and for its association with the settlement history of this region of St. Lawrence County in northern New York.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Hale Cemetery is significant under criterion A in the area of exploration/settlement for its association with the migration of New England settlers in what eventually became the Town of Norfolk in St. Lawrence County, and for its age as an intact early burial ground whose establishment coincided with the incorporation of the township of Norfolk. It illustrates attitudes concerning burial practices over the period of nearly two centuries, from the early nineteenth century to the present. The property also meets Criterion C in the area of Art as it derives significance from the evolution of funerary art and its distinctive design features such as a notable stone wall and arch. The Hale Cemetery, as a collection, is representative of changing tastes in funerary art as expressed in a rural area of St. Lawrence County from the early nineteenth century to present times. The cemetery serves as the final resting place for many of Norfolk's founding individuals and families who began trickling into the decades following the Macomb Purchase, a notorious transaction that granted 3.6 million acres of northern New York to Alexander Macomb, Daniel McCormick, and William Constable after the Revolutionary War.³ Local settlers began using the land as a fledgling non-denominational burial ground in 1823, and subsequent names on the headstones represent several prominent early families and their ancestors, many of whom were buried there well into the twentieth century. With a total of 892 burials, 729 being in the old section, information contained on Hale Cemetery's markers and iconography provide important demographic and genealogical information about the evolution of the community and shifting attitudes toward death.⁴ The period of significance begins in 1823 with the first burial and ends in 1974 representing the continued use of the cemetery into the twentieth century while also adhering to the general fifty-year guidelines

³ Jane A. Barlow, *Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks: The Story of the Lake, the Land, and the People*, (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 2004)

⁴ According to the Hale Cemetery Association burial records, sixty-nine percent of burials in both the new and old section date from the period of significance (1823-1974).

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of the National Register program. Since 1923 the cemetery has been noted for its impressive cobblestone arch and wall that separates the old and new sections.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Hale Cemetery is a small rural burial ground 1.6 miles southeast of the Town of Norfolk in St. Lawrence County which is situated on the St. Lawrence River in the northernmost region of the state. The cemetery is located in the central northern portion of the county and is about ten miles northwest of Potsdam, the largest community in St. Lawrence County. Like much of northern New York, Norfolk is agricultural in nature, and consists of both flat plains, swampland, and small river valleys - Hale situated in the latter. Although St. Lawrence County boasts fertile land, it is also notable for several St. Lawrence River tributaries and proximity to the foothills of the Adirondacks, all which afforded the region a number of industrial pursuits despite its geographic isolation from much of the state. The area around Hale still reflects some of these industries, with a railroad line immediately adjacent to the east, an abandoned quarry to the west, and numerous nearby farmsteads, some dating back to the early nineteenth century. One of these, the Valley Farm, was originally established by the cemetery's namesake Ira Hale and is close to the cemetery boundaries.

Early Settlement

Before New England settlers began migrating to Potsdam and the surrounding region in the early nineteenth century, indigenous people had been living there at least 5,000 years. At the time of the American Revolution, the area was part of the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee/Iroquois Nations where it served as an important travel waypoint from Mohawk Adirondack hunting grounds to many semi-permanent settlements on the St. Lawrence River. As allies to the British in the American Revolution, terms of the Treaty of Paris stripped most Mohawk of their ancestral land, and many fled to Canada.⁵

After the Revolutionary War, the state of New York offered nearly four million acres of land for sale to help offset financial debt it had incurred. In 1791 wealthy speculator Alexander Macomb purchased nearly four million acres along the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario. This was a remarkable transaction that led to numerous hearings in the New York State Legislature, but the deal was ultimately upheld. This transfer,

⁵ State University of New York Potsdam, "Native Heritage", Online at <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/college-history/potsdam-stories/native-heritage#:~:text=%22The%20Mohawks%20of%20Akwesasne%20are,in%20Akwesasne%3A%20A%20Cultural%20Portrait>

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subsequently known as Macomb's Purchase, was one of the largest in New York State's history. The land was spread over six "Great Tracts" and covered parts present-day Franklin, Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego, and all of St. Lawrence County.⁶ Only a year later Macomb found himself bankrupt when he couldn't sell off the land fast enough to offset his purchase debt. Macomb was forced to sell to his colleagues William Constable and Daniel McCormick who had helped arrange the purchase.⁷ William Constable was assigned Macomb's interests in Madrid, Potsdam, Louisville, and the west half of Stockholm, the latter two which became the Hamlet of Norfolk. After Constable's death in 1803 his brother James and son John Constable became remote executors of the area now known as Norfolk. Some of the land was quickly conveyed to Governor Morris and Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, but the land that would become Hale Cemetery was retained by the Constables.

The American Revolution provoked cultural upheaval and gave Americans the prospect of new economic opportunities. Northern New York became an attractive destination for ambitious and disillusioned New Englanders who were attracted to its fertile land, milling, and logging opportunities in the late eighteenth century. By 1850, over 52,000 Vermont-born settlers resided in New York.⁸ Norfolk epitomized this migration – in 1809 New Englanders began to trickle to the area, the earliest being Erastus Hall and Ira Brewer from Tyringham, Massachusetts, and several Vermonters followed.⁹ The latter included Moses and Freelove Hale whose son Ira was born in 1800 and later became the namesake for the cemetery. Settlements sprung up along the Raquette River quickly, a dam was built as soon as 1812 to harness waterpower for saw and grist mills in Raymondville, Louisville, Raquetteville, and Stockholm, the boundaries of which fluctuated well into the mid-nineteenth century. The southern half of Louisville was ceded to form the Town of Norfolk on April 9, 1823. Norfolk became a separate township in excess of 35,000 acres, with boundaries that subsequently changed on April 15, 1834, when a section of Stockholm was annexed, and on April 5, 1844, when a portion was returned to Louisville.¹⁰

The center of Norfolk was located on the sandy eastern shore of the Raquette River, and after incorporation it grew into a small but thriving settlement with enough agricultural, industrial, and business pursuits to sustain

⁶ Christine Bush and Leslie Krupa, National Register Draft Nomination, St. Lawrence County Government Center, 2024.

⁷ Jane A., Barlow, *Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks: The Story of the Lake, the Land, and the People*. (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 2004) 2-3.

⁸ David Ellis Maldwyn. "The Yankee Invasion of New York, 1783-1850" *New York History* 32, no. 1 (1951): 3-17. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23149993>.

⁹ Jacqueline A. Maxin, *Norfolk, New York*, (Massena: Stubbs Printing Company, 1976), 9.

¹⁰ Town of Norfolk, New York, <https://norfolkny.com/>

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the fledgling community. Norfolk's first sawmill was built in 1824 by Oral Bradley¹¹, with the Phoenix Iron Company established in town a year later. With the population doubling from 665 to 1373 in just ten years, Norfolk also saw the birth of several church congregations, including the Congregational Church of Society of Norfolk (1825) and the Norfolk Methodist Church (1831).¹² However, these congregations did not establish their own burial grounds when establishing their churches, a somewhat unusual decision for that time. American settlers during the early eighteenth century interred their dead in four types of burial grounds: domestic burial sites on farms; churchyards; potter's fields; and town/city cemeteries. Settlers from New England typically would establish churchyards, but it appears the citizens of Norfolk opted for a town burial ground.¹³

Establishment of Hale

By 1819 the need for a formal burial ground within the settlement was apparent, and Norfolk townsfolk began to relegate their deceased to the one-acre High Street Cemetery, located just north of downtown on the opposite bank of the Raquette River. By the 1830s Norfolk's Catholic population established their own unofficial burial ground, what is now Visitation Cemetery. Catholic burials there increased through the late nineteenth century, growing to encompass 6.3 acres on the far west side of town. Visitation Cemetery is the largest in the area with over 2,000 documented graves, including that of Frank Lawrence "Lefty" Rosenthal, and organized crime figure who was the basis of the 1995 movie *Casino*.¹⁴

The need for burial grounds for rural residents was also apparent, and by the 1820s the agricultural regions surrounding Norfolk had attracted enough farmers to warrant three formal burial grounds for rural residents: Brookdale, due east of Norfolk (earliest burial in 1813); Bixby, northeast of Norfolk (earliest burial in 1827), and Hale, serving the area southeast of Norfolk.

¹¹ Oral Bradley lived to the age of 90 and was buried in Hale Cemetery in 1891.

¹² Jacqueline A. Maxin, *Norfolk New York*, 11.

¹³ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 13-14; 24-25.

¹⁴ Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/32565520/frank_lawrence-rosenthal: accessed May 8, 2024), memorial page for Frank Lawrence "Lefty" Rosenthal (12 Jun 1929–13 Oct 2008), Find a Grave Memorial ID 32565520, citing Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk, St. Lawrence County, New York, USA; Maintained by Find a Grave.

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The tragic death of eleven-year-old Hannah Thatcher marks the earliest known burial in Hale (photo #11). Her epitaph reads “daughter of Ephraim and Sally Thatcher was drowned June 2nd, 1823.”¹⁵ At the time of Hannah Thatcher’s burial the cemetery would have been part of the towns of Stockholm and Norfolk simultaneously, and the land still belonged to John Constable and his wife, Alida Van Rensselaer Constable. The earliest burials at Hale were set back from the road in what is now the northernmost part of the cemetery. By all accounts it remained a sparsely used and nameless burial ground prior to its association with Ira Hale and numerous Hale family members who have been interred there since Louisa Kingsley Hale was laid to rest in 1831. Prior to 1830 only three people were known to be buried in the lot, but its use increased as the early New England settlers who homesteaded outside of Norfolk began to pass away. Headstones from the 1830s and 1840s reflect the mass migration of New Englanders to the region, among them some of the most prominent families who developed the area. Oral Bradley, proprietor of the first sawmill in Norfolk buried three of his children at Hale long before he was interred there in 1891. Connecticut Revolutionary War Lieutenant Samuel Cook Bogue was one of the first three people buried in the cemetery, as was fellow Connecticut soldier Phineas Judson (a Revolutionary War Sergeant), who was likely related to the first family to spend a winter in the area.

Hale can best be described as a “domestic homestead graveyard” or “domestic burial ground” according to the characteristics as defined by David Charles Sloane in his definitive work *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. These types of burial grounds had existed since the seventeenth century but increased in popularity after the American Revolution. They were established in farm fields and often belonged to a single family who occasionally shared their plot with their rural neighbors. The practice of sharing family burial grounds was particularly common in community-driven New England, and this was likely the model the settlers outside of Norfolk were familiar with having hailed from Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Domestic burial grounds such as Hale were designed in a geometric pattern and often fenced in, reflecting settlers’ rejection of haphazard pioneer burials in favor of practices that symbolized order, domestication, and civilization. In Hale, even the oldest graves conformed to rows that subsequently filled in over the next century. The earliest extant gravestones, those dating to 1820s, exhibit Neoclassical-inspired design vocabulary, which found full expression in American material culture at this time, such as in the Roman-inspired architecture and decorative arts of the Federal style. Stones from this period are of the rectangular tablet type with either flat, single lobed or three-lobed heads and were typically fashioned from marble. Gravestone art of this period

¹⁵ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58194930/hannah-thatcher>: accessed May 8, 2024), memorial page for Hannah Thatcher (1812–2 Jun 1823), Find a Grave Memorial ID 58194930, citing Hale Cemetery, Norfolk, St. Lawrence County, New York, USA; Maintained by Heather Fullam (contributor 47299348).

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portrays an evolving view of death in contemporary culture, differing in many aspects from earlier views and stark messages of life and death, it being instead of a more reflective and contemplative nature; it was this impulse towards sentimentality which would later drive the Rural Cemetery Movement.¹⁶

Yet Hale had a distinct history that set it apart from the quintessential domestic burial grounds popular at that time. From the 1820s into the 1840s Ira Hale used a portion of what is now the “new” (south) section of the cemetery for annual September training days of the local militia -- the 153rd Regiment, 49th Brigade, 12th Division West Company of Stockholm infantry of New York State.¹⁷ Susan Lyman, former Norwood municipal historian explains, “the New York State militia, composed of North Country men, gathered annually for a day of rigorous military training under the guidance of Colonel Ira Hale, who had been commissioned a colonel in the New York State militia by General [later President] Andrew Jackson.”¹⁸ Although the cemetery land was initially owned by John and Alida Constable, as an adjacent landowner Ira Hale would have been familiar with the property and perhaps served as a caretaker of the cemetery and military training ground. On May 29, 1836, John Constable deeded half an acre referred to as the “Hunter Lot” to Ira Hale, solidifying his holding of the military training ground.¹⁹ Around this time Norfolk separated its boundaries from Stockholm, making the cemetery part of wider Norfolk.

Ira Hale enlarged the half acre cemetery by expanding it into his own land (figure 3), and with additional acreage the cemetery began to see more steady use after 1840, with over thirty burials taking place that decade. It was at this time the area saw additional growth as railroads began reaching the larger cities in central and northern New York, decreasing the time for paper, lumber, mineral, and potash products from the North Country to reach markets. In 1856 the Potsdam to Norwood Railroad opened, and goods could then be sent via coach or the Raquette River to Norwood and from there to market.²¹ The cemetery continued to expand as the first and second generations of original New England Settlers passed away. The use of simple marble with flat or rounded tympanum persisted in graves commemorating first-generation settlers from the Elms, Kimball,

¹⁶ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*, 13-17

¹⁷ Stockholm Historical Association, *The Town of Stockholm – Our History*, (Stockholm, NY: Stockholm Historical Association, 2006), 213.

¹⁸ Jane Young, “The Cemetery that Served Two Towns” *St. Lawrence County Historical Association Quarterly* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1994).

¹⁹ It is possible this refers to William Hunter, a land developer who helped found the town of Stockholm in the late eighteenth century and may have previously held a portion of the Constable’s land prior to their deed to Ira Hale. However, no evidence was found to support this.

²⁰ Hale Cemetery Association

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Kingsley, Dyke, Bradley, and Hale families. Yet by the 1840s the influence of the ornamental rural cemetery movement was apparent even at small rural burial grounds such as Hale. Although Hale retained its straightforward geometric design, a handful of graves in the 1850s began to display markers inspired by the rural movement, including sculptural, three-dimensional marble monuments. At this point the three-lobed headstone and witty epitaphs had in large measure faded from fashion. It is also worth noting that the introduction of the more elaborate grave markers in the 1850s coincided with the development of the marble mining industry in Gouverneur, located about fifty miles southwest of Norfolk.²² While it is unknown specifically where any of the stone in Hale was mined, it is possible that the earliest stones were Vermont Marble, and later marble hailed from Gouverneur. However, both Vermont and Gouverneur marble are known to display a range of colors and grain like what is seen on the monuments at Hale.



*Fig. 3 The Hale family's Valley Farm around the time they owned Hale Cemetery*²³

²¹ Susan Lyman, "Rails Into Racquetteville", (Massena, NY: The Norwood Historical Association & Museum, 1976), online at <http://russnelson.com/RWnO/www.northnet.org/norwood/railroads.html>

²² Joe Laurenzo, "North Country at Work: How marble built Gouverneur", *North Country Public Radio*, Sept. 4, 2017

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Late-Nineteenth Century

In 1865 when Alida Van Rensselaer Constable was settling the estate of her late husband John Constable, the land reserved in 1836 for the burying ground came up as a part of the estate. A survey was therefore made by O. Bradley which served as the basis for a deed drawn on September 22nd, 1865, from Alida Van Rensselaer Constable to John R. Brinkerhoff, Supervisor of the town of Norfolk and his successors in office. It follows the wording of the Bradley survey and adds “The within described land for the use of the neighborhood to bury their dead for a cemetery, being the same land reserved by John and Alida Van Rensselaer Constable his wife in a deed to Ira Hale, May 29th, 1836.”²⁴ Thus Ira Hale was deeded the cemetery land for the second time.

Ira Hale died in October of 1878 and his son Oscar H. Hale continued to annex small portions of the Hale farm he inherited to expand the cemetery. During these decades subsequent generations of original settlers began to pass away and clusters of family plots began to appear in Hale. Families such as the Knapps likely replaced earlier markers with three-dimensional family monuments when the patriarch, Moses Knapp, died in 1884. Some family plots boast an added layer of distinction. Posts, connected by chains or slabs of stone, create defined enclosures around family burial grounds. This additional element provides a sense of privacy and indicated particular significance of the resting place. These family plots comprised of original settlers and their children are primarily located in the southern half of the “old” section, near where the arch is today. The mid-nineteenth century period is also marked by cut-stone markers featuring raised inscriptions rendered on square or rectangular backgrounds and having squared heads. Examples of the Egyptian-inspired obelisk form, along with related variants, are also present in the cemetery, though to a limited extent, and these also relate to mid-nineteenth century developments and Romanticized interest in the ancient architecture and culture of Egypt.

The increased ornamentation of these monuments also reflected changes to the funeral industry after the Civil War. As Greg Melville puts it, “the burgeoning postwar funeral industry triggered the commodification of death just as American society in the late nineteenth century was becoming increasingly urbanized, secular, and capitalistic...[cemeteries] were becoming their own profit-making entities.”²⁵ Even small homestead cemeteries like Hale reflect the changes to how American’s approached death as the Victorian era ended. The rural

²³ Samuel W. Durant and H. B. Peirce, *History of St. Lawrence Co.*, (New York. Philadelphia, L. H. Everts & Co), 1878. Pdf. <https://www.loc.gov/item/01014241/>

²⁴ “Aida Van Rensselaer Constable to John R. Brinkerhoff St. Lawrence County Deed” (Canton, NY, 1865), Book 72 C, p. 407.

²⁵ Greg Melville, *Over My Dead Body: Unearthing the Hidden History of America’s Cemeteries*, (New York: Abrams Press, 2023), 126.

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cemetery movement brought sentimental sculptures with decorative features such as urns and willows, but with the start of the early twentieth century some gravestones became more functional and straightforward. This shift reflected the increasing distance between Americans and death, resulting in both the secularization and streamlining process of burials. At Hale during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, tablets with peaked and rounded heads came into more common usage, as did molded and chamfered edges and the increasing use of bases upon which the tablets rest; the earlier stones were typically anchored directly into the ground, without bases. Many of the stones from this period are more considerable in size and were often crafted from granite, with both polished and rough-hewn surfaces. Bases, consisting of both one and two parts, became a standard feature by this time, and detailing when present is often rendered in a controlled manner or otherwise with highly stylistic foliate motifs. Several urn monuments in the burial ground are further evidence of characteristic and expected imagery.

Twentieth Century

At the turn of the century the Hale Cemetery Association was founded, formalizing the interment process and management of the cemetery. The town of Norfolk consisted of over 2,000 residents by this time and was a well-connected transportation hub to Potsdam, and although some industries such as tanning were waning in the town, the surrounding agricultural region continued to thrive. Burials at Hale between 1900 and 1920 continued at the same pace as before, with one to ten a year.

By World War I, Hale began to exhibit emerging trends consistent with the latest evolution of burial grounds in wider America. Although Hale burials remained consistent with its original geometric design, the Hale Cemetery Association set its sights on enhancing the property. In 1923 they hired George Dove to design and construct a distinct cobblestone wall and arch at what was then the cemetery entrance. Dove was from Norwood, one town south of Norfolk, and he was locally well-known enough to have at least one notable prior commission. Sometime between 1900 and 1912 Dove constructed a cobblestone fountain for the Union Free School (later Norwood Elementary school), beloved enough to be remembered by former students as “sacred ground.”²⁶ The fountain ceased use by the early 1950s but is still extant on the grounds of the former school building in Norwood; the community funded a successful restoration in 2016. At Hale, Dove hired William E. Fletcher to assist in the construction of the wall and arch by collecting field stones from the surrounding roads. Unlike the fountain, the arch and wall at Hale Cemetery appear to incorporate somewhat large stones, although

²⁶ “Century-Old Norwood School’s History Told,” Courier and Freeman (Potsdam, NY) January 15, 1985, 5.

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the design of both have irregular patterning and demonstrate the work of a master mason. Aside from the Union School fountain, few records remain of George Dove and his other masonry work.

In 1928 the Hale Cemetery Association purchased the area south of the wall as additional land for burials, although no burials took place there until 1963. Upon purchase of this land the wall and arch divided the cemetery into two sections, with the old section to the north, and the south section set aside for future burials. The incorporation of the cobblestone wall and arch coincided with the first flush-to-the-ground markers and shift to smaller three-dimensional gravestones that became common in the memorial park cemetery model that dominated the twentieth century. Sloane points out that under a memorial park approach, "Superintendents wanted cemeteries to be places of celebration and joy, the monuments evoked death...Superintendents, along with their customers, wanted a new cemetery that could truly be without gloom."²⁷ It is likely that the Hale Cemetery Association commissioned the decorative arch as a way to both beautify the cemetery and soften its association with mortality in a time when Americans were becoming detached from death.

Simple granite headstones or low-to-the-ground markers dominated for decades to come, de-emphasizing notable and wealthy families in favor of community. Although descendants of the first settlers continued to be buried at Hale, modern grave markers no longer indicated which family names carried the most weight. In 1941 the Hale Cemetery Association planted several maple, poplar, and elm trees that remain. Like the memorial park model, landscaping such as this acted as a passive backdrop rather than a feature of the cemetery. The Hale Cemetery Association conducted a survey of the front portion of the cemetery in 1961 in order to plan the new section. The survey was completed in 1962 and the front lots became available for burials that upheld the geometric pattern of rows established when Hale was established. After 1963 both the old and the new section were used concurrently, and in 1974 an additional section was opened on the far north side of the cemetery (adjacent to the old section). All burials since 2019 have taken place in the 1963 section. The cemetery is still owned and maintained by the Hale Cemetery Association and is the final resting place of ninety veterans from the American Revolution, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam.

²⁷ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*, 13-17

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Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Young, Jean A. "The Cemetery that Served Two Towns" *Wright House Recollections -St. Lawrence County Historical Association Vol 2, no 3, Sept 1994*

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.7 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 44.783450

Longitude: -74.957414

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides with the legal lot lines of the nominated parcel, as identified on the county tax map (43.001-1-1). The total nominated boundary is 4.7 acres.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary is the current legal boundary, which encompasses the full extent of the known historic burials

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Krupa, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization OPRHP

date May 13, 2024

street & number 1 Delaware Ave. North

telephone 518.268-2464

city or town Cohoes

state NY

zip code 12047

e-mail Leslie.krupa@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

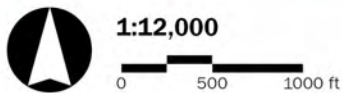
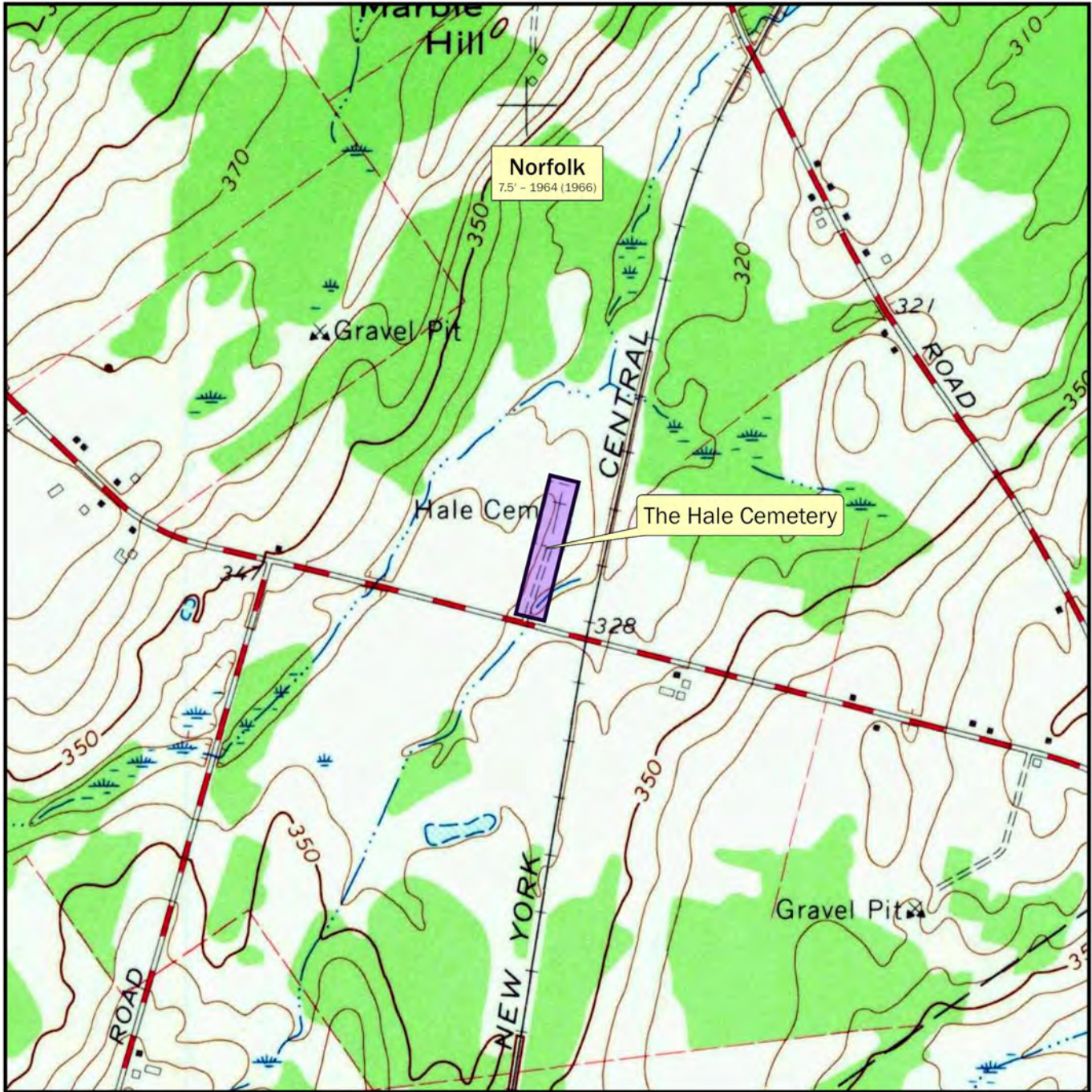
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

 The Hale Cemetery



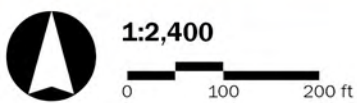
Mapped 04/04/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO


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 Nomination Boundary (4.52 ac)



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2020

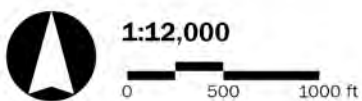
Mapped 04/04/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

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Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

 Nomination Boundary (4.52 ac)  Tax Parcels

St. Lawrence County Parcel Year: 2021



Mapped 04/04/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Hale Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Norfolk

County: St. Lawrence State: New York

Photographer: Cathy Fayette, Gloria Simons, Nancy LaFaver

Date Photographed: January and June 2023; April 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 19: View of Hale Cemetery facing north from Knapps Station Road entrance
- 2 of 19: New section facing northwest
- 3 of 19: New section facing northeast
- 4 of 19: Contemporary burial vault in northern new section, facing west
- 5 of 19: Cobblestone arch facing northeast into old section
- 6 of 19: Cobblestone arch facing northwest into old section
- 7 of 19: Cobblestone arch current conditions, facing north
- 8 of 19: Old section facing southwest
- 9 of 19: Old section facing east
- 10 of 19: Old section facing north
- 11 of 19: Grave of Hannah Thatcher, earliest known burial in the cemetery (1823)
- 12 of 19: Grave of Revolutionary War veteran Samuel Bogue with old and new markers
- 13 of 19: Hale family marker
- 14 of 19: Knapp family marker and fencing

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15 of 19: Matthew Barney grave, early example of Victorian religious symbolism

16 of 19: Grave of Phineas Judson, a Revolutionary War veteran

17 of 19: Lucinda Knapp marker with shrouded urn

18 of 19: Example of modest flush-to-ground marker

19 of 19: Brush family granite monument

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Hale Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, NY

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Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Hale Cemetery Association

street & number 3366 County Route 47

telephone 315-384-3147

city or town Norfolk

state NY

zip code 13667

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Perf