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Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**PINE GROVE CEMETERY, TRURO, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved the Pine Grove Cemetery in Truro for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its December 12, 2012, 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 the Pine Grove Cemetery will help to protect this vestige of an important period in Truro’s history.”

Pine Grove Cemetery is located about 1.25 miles south of Truro Center, and was originally associated with two Methodist churches dating to 1791 and 1831. The Pine Grove Cemetery was the location of the first evangelical Methodist meetinghouse on Cape Cod, Truro’s second meetinghouse. The burying ground was established adjacent to the meetinghouse in 1799. No church building remains on the property, which is accessible from Cemetery Road. Located today within the Cape Cod National Seashore the cemetery is roughly rectangular in form and encompasses just over two acres, surrounded by a granite and iron boundary fence. Pine Grove contains approximately 800 burials, the oldest of which dates to 1799. There is a receiving tomb located at the eastern entrance. The cemetery is significant for its associations with the growth of the Methodist Evangelical Church, which experienced a period of expansion between 1837 and 1855, coinciding with Truro’s greatest period of economic growth. Headstone designs represented in the cemetery are primarily willow-and-urn motifs, although a few winged skulls and winged cherubs are present. Victorian-era motifs in the cemetery include a broken bud, a rose, a lamb, a sheaf of wheat, a tablet, and an upward-pointing hand.

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Among the headstones are works of several well-known carvers, including Ebenezer Winslow, Nathaniel Holmes, Alpheus Cary, Thomas A. Hopkins, and the Geyer carvers. Burials include some of the oldest families in Truro, as well as 47 veterans, from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. In 1984, the Pine Grove Cemetery Association conveyed the cemetery to the town; burials are still conducted here today.

The Pine Grove 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 historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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