

# Pine Hill Cemetery

## Cemetery Road



**Form No.** 800  
**Town** Sherborn  
**Address** Head of Cemetery Road  
**Name** Pine Hill Cemetery  
**Ownership, 1981** Public  
**Approximate number stones** 500  
**Earliest death date** 1852  
**Latest death date** 1981  
**Condition** This cemetery and its grounds are in excellent condition.  
**Recorded** July 1981

### ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK

Pine Hill Cemetery's ten acres contain many good examples of Victorian gravestones and memorials. Its markers are composed of a variety of materials including granite, limestone (most common), marble, sandstone, etc. Many stones terminate in Gothicized points and display flowers carved in high relief. Egyptian obelisks, both unadorned and crowned by "flaming" urns, are scattered throughout the cemetery. One of the most elaborate memorials is nestled in a grove of trees near the cemetery's center. On the Sanger family plot is a tall Roman column which rests on a plinth. Winding around the column are carved laurel leaves. This shaft is crowned by a flaming urn. Within the Sanger plot are the remains of the town's first three ministers, which were removed from the Central Cemetery to Pine Hill in 1857 by Colonel Sanger.

The cemetery's other highlights include a handsome entrance gate which consists of a wide metal arch bearing the cemetery's name. It rests on granite posts. Still intact, although missing some elements, are the cast iron gate posts. In the center of the cemetery is a frame Eastlavian "summerhouse". This small square open structure is

composed of turned posts which support a steeply pitched hip roof. The roof is covered with slate shingles. Below the roof's eaves are bands of wood shingles. Wooden slats appear between the turned posts. This diminutive structure is painted chocolate brown.

### **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pine Hill Cemetery is Sherborn's newest burial ground. It was dedicated in 1852. Its winding roads, beautiful landscaping, and rugged terrain place it squarely with the rural or romantic cemetery tradition which began with the establishment of Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge in 1831. Pine Hill's landscaping is credited to Sherborn's resident doctor, Oliver Everett, and to Captain Jacob Pratt. Pine Hill became town controlled in 1888 (as did all the cemeteries within Sherborn's boundaries). This cemetery was expanded in 1912 and 1925, and continues to be used for the interment of Sherborn's residents.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974