United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
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.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Plains Cemetery
   Other names/site number: Village Cemetery
   Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location
   Street & number: Cemetery Lane
   City or town: Kingston
   State: NH
   County: Rockingham
   Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this 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 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 ___ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A ___B ___C ___D

   ________________________________  __________________________
   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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of commenting official:</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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:) ______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
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</thead>
</table>

5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Private: 

Public – Local  

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  

District
Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 buildings</td>
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<td>1 sites</td>
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<td></td>
<td>structures</td>
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<td>79 objects</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>81 Total</td>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Fieldstone, sandstone, slate, marble, granite

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Plains Cemetery, established ca. 1725, is the oldest public cemetery in the town of Kingston, New Hampshire. Located in the historic village center, to the east of the Plains at the eastern terminus of Cemetery Lane, it was a primary town burying ground into the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is a characteristic early eighteenth-century town burying ground with over 1,400 burials, according to Trustee of Trust Funds records. The burying ground is notable for preserving the burial site of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), physician, second signer of the Declaration of Independence, and first New Hampshire Governor. The cemetery is maintained by the Town of Kingston and remains in use only on occasion. The flat, approximately four-acre, roughly rectangular cemetery is fenced on the north, east, and south sides with metal fencing, with mature trees and shrubs providing some screening from the abutting properties; it is open on the west side. The original center section has been expanded four times, twice on the south side once on the north side, and once to the southwest. The earliest legible marker appears to be that of Joanna Clough (1717), but it may be a back-dated stone, placed after the establishment of the burying ground. The most recent is 2013. The majority of markers range in date from the second quarter of the eighteenth century to the second quarter of the twentieth century, with the greatest number dating to the late eighteenth century and nineteenth century. The eighteenth and nineteenth-century markers are a diverse collection of fieldstones (many unmarked), tablet headstones, footstones (some not inscribed),

1 This is an estimate; the exact number of graves is not known. The list of burials at the Cemetery Office numbers over 1,400 although there appear to be some omissions. Owing to the large number of gravestones, markers, and monuments, it is impossible to identify all resources. Any approximate counts are intended to convey types of resources found in the cemetery.
and some pedestal stones and obelisks. Also present is one box tomb and one tomb. The gravestone art in the cemetery reflects the evolving forms and symbolism of grave markers popular in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, notably winged soul effigies, urns and willows, and Victorian-era sentimental images such as wilted roses. The markers of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth are mostly slate, sandstone, or fieldstone, while those of the last three quarters of the nineteenth century are typically marble. By the early twentieth century, granite became the most common material, remaining so up through the period of significance. The Plains Cemetery is the burial place of many descendants of Kingston’s earliest families along with successful local businessmen, farmers, and civic leaders, and their families. More than forty graves of known veterans in the Revolutionary War and Civil War are present. Some markers have suffered damage due to exposure to the elements or have been lost through time, particularly the older ones in the original center section. In addition, many of the sandstone and marble markers have accumulations of moss and/or lichen. Though the cemetery is still used occasionally it retains considerable historic integrity. The Plains Cemetery contains 81 contributing resources (one building, one site, and 79 funerary objects) and 1 non-contributing object, a well (see Data Sheet).

Narrative Description

Location and Setting
The Plains Cemetery, established ca. 1725, is in the northern part of the town of Kingston, New Hampshire, within the village of Kingston Plains or the Plains, the historic commercial, civic, educational, and population center of the town. The Plains area is a large, flat section of land, east of Greenwood Pond and northeast of Great Pond. It had been occupied by members of the Algonquin tribe of Native Americans prior to European settlement. The village, the site of the town’s earliest European settlement, is organized around the half-mile long, 300-foot-wide Common (laid out in 1700 originally as a 20-rods-wide [330’] street) that runs north-south. The Common is flanked by Main Street, which now runs two ways on each side. The Plains Cemetery is just east of Main Street, accessed by Cemetery Lane, a short, paved road, off the east side of Main Street. Historically, the second meetinghouse stood nearby at the west end of Rockrimmon Road which terminates on the west side of Main Street, nearly opposite from Cemetery Lane. At the southeast corner of Main and Cemetery Lane is the Stick-styled former Universalist Church, listed in the National Register (NR 1979). The cemetery is a part of the Kingston Historic District I, a local historic district, established in 1972.

Kingston Plains Village consists predominantly of residential buildings, along with some commercial, civic, and religious structures, ranging in date from the eighteenth through the twentieth century, possibly along with one seventeenth-century building. Properties with nineteenth- or twentieth-century residences, some with outbuildings, abut the north, east, and

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2 Now an open green space, only with a bandstand, it historically had a schoolhouse and a meetinghouse located on it, or close to it.
south boundaries of the approximately four-acre rectangular cemetery. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees, sometimes supplemented with modern fencing, including wire, or chain link, demarcate most of the boundaries of the cemetery. The mature vegetation partially screens views of the buildings from within the cemetery. The flat site is primarily open grass with several east-west running unpaved paths and several short rows of tall, mature maples in the southern section. The cemetery’s minimal landscaping is characteristic of early town burying grounds, denoting their utilitarian purpose, and before the popularization of rural cemetery landscaping movements of the nineteenth century.

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3 The tax map does not give the acreage, but does provide boundary dimensions, which adds up to approximately 169,276 square feet, which is slightly less than four acres.
Plains Cemetery
Kingston (Rockingham) NH

DATA SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/Lot</th>
<th>Resource/Name</th>
<th>Date**</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Carver</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Photo No.</th>
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<td>Slate/John Marble</td>
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* Section/lot number is from the hand drawn map of Kingston Plains Cemetery drawn by Rodney M. Wilson in 1958 of the North and South Additions and Leonard F. Sanborn in 1978 of the Center Section.

** Year refers to the internment (death) date on the marker and does not necessarily reflect the date of carving or when the stone was placed.

**TOTAL RESOURCES:**

1 Contributing Site
1 Contributing Building
79 Contributing Objects
1 Non-contributing Object
Note: With over 1,400 burials and an unknown total number of gravestones, markers, and monuments in Plains Cemetery, it is impossible to identify all resources. Therefore, the objects selected as contributing are intended to provide a representative sample of the resources to be found in the Cemetery.

Description
The Plains Cemetery, established ca. 1725, is a characteristic early eighteenth-century rural town burying ground. The center area is the original section of the cemetery. In 1859 and 1869 two additions expanded the original center section to the south, ultimately adding seventy-one plots (some since halved or doubled) (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds Book 385, Page 129 and Book 431, Page 122). In July 1890, a third addition comprised of a mix of half, full, and double plots, expanded the cemetery on the north side (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 521, Page 334; Plan 0095). A fourth small rectangular addition in 1957 along the southwest side of the south additions, helped to square the property, creating the current nearly rectangular configuration (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 1447, Page 293).

Visitors enter the cemetery from the eastern terminus of Cemetery Lane. The cemetery is an approximately four-acre mostly a flat, open, grass-covered rectangular space except for some mature trees along the paths in the south section. Several grass paths run east-west through the cemetery. The center section is the largest (and oldest) portion of the cemetery and less gridded than the south and north additions. The south addition is bisected by one path, and a second one separates it from the original section. The north addition has one wide center path and two narrower paths. An additional path runs north south along the western side of the cemetery and the southern portion is flanked by mature trees. In the oldest section, the markers generally are aligned in rows running north-south, with the stones facing west, in characteristic fashion. This is essentially true also in the south and north addition sections, though in some instances there is only a center monument and on occasion granite curbing and cornerstones outlining the plot.

According to Cemetery Department records, the Plains Cemetery contains over 1,400 burials. Somewhere between half and three quarters of those burials remain identified by some type of marker, in the form of fieldstones, headstones, obelisks, pedestal monuments, block monuments, slant markers, bevel markers, or lawn type markers and in single instances by a box tomb or a tomb. The markers include small stones for children and substantial monuments commemorating some of the town’s more prominent residents and descendants of some of the town’s original and early settlers. Many of the headstones and monuments include visual symbols and vital data of the deceased. Some also include epitaphs. Symbols include soul effigies (most winged), variations of the urn and willow motif, and flower or bud symbols. A majority of the burials and funerary art at the Plains Cemetery dates to the eighteenth,

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4 This deed mentions a town tomb was once located on the west side of the cemetery. No information has come to light on when it was removed or what it looked like.
nineteenth, or first half of the twentieth century. The cemetery is now used only occasionally. Due to weathering, damage, or absence of lettering from the beginning, not all the markers are legible or intact. This is primarily the case in the various areas of the original center section, the location of the oldest markers in the cemetery (see 1958 plan, areas marked “old stones”). In those areas, only broken, illegible stones or unlettered fieldstones mark the grave sites.

The original center section contains the oldest stones, nearly all individual headstones, and of sandstone, slate, and marble. While the earlier ones have tympanums, and rounded or square shoulders, the later ones have level, slightly beveled top edges, or multi-lobed tops. The south section has family plots, or multiple family members located close to each other, sometimes with all the names on an obelisk or pedestal or block monument, along with smaller slant markers, bevel markers, or lawn markers used to denote individual burials within the plot. Approximately fifteen plots (primarily located in the south addition and north addition sections) have low granite curbing around the perimeter and cornerstones often with vaulted tops.

Sandstone and slate are the predominant materials utilized for markers in the Plains Cemetery in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, as befits the first 100 years or so of the cemetery’s use. Marble then became the predominant stone, utilized for monuments and gravestones in the last three quarters of the nineteenth century. Granite then replaced marble as the common material beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through the twentieth century.

The markers include some early rough field stones, some with chiseled lettering but many unlettered, to eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century sandstone and slate markers with elaborate carving, to simpler marble and white sandstone markers and marble and granite obelisks, and pedestal monuments from the later nineteenth-century period to granite block monuments by the early twentieth century. Generally, eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century markers denote individual graves. These often are accompanied by footstones. With the purchase of family plots beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century and continuing through the twentieth century, individual monuments centered on the plot and slant markers, bevel markers, or lawn markers denoting individual burials became more common. The cemetery contains only one box tomb and one tomb.

Some of the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century stones have been or possibly can be attributed to particular stone carver families active during those periods in the Merrimack Valley and Seacoast region. The best-known carvers are the Lamson Family of Charlestown, Massachusetts, and the Noyes Family of Boston and later Newburyport, Massachusetts. At least four or five of the slate headstones with soul effigies appear to be the work of the third or fourth generation of the Lamson family of carvers. At least fourteen of the slate headstones with soul effigies appear to be the work of the well-known, Newburyport, Massachusetts, carver Paul Noyes. It is also possible that some of the slate headstones with urn and willow

5 Some of the attributions derive from a tour given by Glenn Knoblock in the summer of 2019, funded by New Hampshire Humanities. Knoblock is an authority particularly on eighteenth-century gravestone carvers active in southeast New Hampshire and northeast Massachusetts (see bibliography).
designs are also the work of the Noyes family, but additional research is necessary to establish that. None of the eighteenth-century stones appear to be signed (or at least no signature is visible at this time). Other eighteenth-century markers appear to be the work of Johnathan Hartshorne and the Mullickens, some of the other better-known carvers of the period, but further research is needed.

A handful of the nineteenth-century stones are signed, notably by John Marble, Haverhill and Timothy G. Eastman, Exeter. The Plains Cemetery also appears to have markers by other carvers and monument makers who have not yet been identified by researchers. A more detailed examination of the markers along with Probate research might identify additional carvers.

The Plains Cemetery has one box tomb. This form is typically used only by the more prominent members of a community. The Josiah and Mary Bartlett Box Tomb (ca. 1795, 1 Contributing Object) is the burial site of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), the second signer of the Declaration of Independence after John Hancock, first constitutional governor of New Hampshire, and founder of the New Hampshire Medical Society, and his wife Mary (1730-1789). It is a characteristic box tomb in form but differs from many in its use of a mortared granite block base rather than the more common brick base. The original slab is now topped by a new granite slab to prevent any further deterioration of the original slab (which appears to still be in place), with the inscription presumably duplicating the original information. Deterioration of the cover slab is a common problem with this monument form because the top is so exposed to the elements.

Three medals are affixed to the west face of the tomb honoring Bartlett as a signer of the Declaration of Independence and honoring his service in the Revolutionary War. The slab inscription says: “This Monument is Erected Over the Sacred Relics Of His Excellency Josiah Bartlett Esq. Late Governor Of Newhampshire[sic] Who Died May 19th 1795 In the 65th Year Of His Age And His Virtuous And Amiable Consort Mrs. Mary Bartlett Who Died July 14th 1789 In the The 59th Year Of Her Age.”

The Bartlett Box Tomb is the only structure of this type in the Plains Cemetery. The weekly correspondence of Mary Bartlett with her husband while he attended Congress, represent a rich cache of documents about late eighteenth-century and Revolutionary domestic life, in addition to much local news (Mevers 1979, xvi). (See Statement of Significance for history and significance of Josiah Bartlett).

The Plains Cemetery has one tomb, also belonging to the Bartlett family. This type is also more frequently used by a community’s more prominent members. The Family Tomb of Hon. Levi Bartlett (1828, 1 Contributing Object) is a characteristic earthen tomb with a brick façade framed by a granite lintel and granite posts with tapered tops. The iron door has a studded frame and foliate decoration in the upper corners. Set atop the tomb is a marble tablet with an inscription identifying the tomb as the family tomb of the Hon. Levi Bartlett family and the date erected.

Levi Bartlett (1763-1828), also a physician in Kingston like his father, was the oldest son of Governor Josiah Bartlett and his wife Mary. He did his preparatory education at Dummer Academy in Newbury, Massachusetts. For his medical training, he first studied with his father.
for a year, and then with Dr. Thomas Kittredge of Andover, Massachusetts. Levi then established his professional practice in Kingston, as his father had largely given up his medical practice. Levi’s thriving practice extended to adjoining towns. He was a “skillful and successful surgeon, and performed many important operations” (Anonymous 1847, 97). Like his father, he held various public offices, including Justice of the Peace and Quorum throughout the state, Colonel in the militia, and a lengthy term as Postmaster. He also represented Kingston in the Legislature, as a member of the Council, and as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas (Anonymous 1847, 96-97).

A small number of the earliest stones in the Plains Cemetery are irregularly shaped field stones, frequently unlettered. This type is common from the 1600s to the late eighteenth century, typically crafted by a family member or a friend of the deceased with rudimentary stone working skills. They did not require the expense of a professional stone carver. They are all located in the center section, mostly in the west half.

The earliest legible stones, numbering more than twenty-five dating from the 1730s to the 1770s, are mostly red or grey sandstone tablets (though a few are slate), often with round shoulders and tympanums (often with winged soul effigy motifs) and either abstract swirling or foliate border designs. Often the soul effigy is frowning. Only a few have the more ominous winged skull motif, a design more common to the seventeenth and early eighteenth century. Two are for children and may be the work of the Mullicken Family (see French Family Lot below).

In the wake of the First Great Awakening (ca. 1730-1755), the soul effigy or winged face became the more popular design. Its style related to changing religious ideas and a more optimistic attitude about resurrection and immortality (Chase and Gable 1997, 9). The winged soul effigies constitute a more idealized portrait of the soul of the deceased. While some of the early ones have a grim or frowning expression, by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the soul effigy takes on a more placid and hopeful appearance. Sometimes the inscription includes a locational reference, noting “Here lies buried the body of…”

The earliest legible marker in the cemetery is that of Joanna Clough (d. 1717, Center/268A, 1 Contributing Object). The sandstone marker has a round tympanum flanked by round unornamented shoulders. Centered in the tympanum is a simple, abstract round face with geometric forms for the eyes, nose, and mouth. The border is decorated with abstract swirled forms suggestive of vines, and the transcription panel is outlined by a wavy border. It may be a back-dated stone as it shares some similar characteristics with at least three sandstone markers from the 1730s, all in the center section. The lettering and detailing suggest they might be the work of a local carver, as they all have rough lettering. Joanna Clough was the daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Worcester) Sanborn of Hampton. She had married Cornelius Clough, an early settler of Kingston, in 1714 (Hosier 2015, 36).

The Jedediah Philbrick gravestone (1754, Center Lot 161, 1 Contributing Object), is a sandstone marker that appears to be the work of one of the Merrimack Valley carvers, such as

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6 The other three markers are for Joseph Busell (1735, Center Lot 268D), Sarah Busell (1735, Center Lot 268D), and Abigail Clough (1735, Center Lot 268A).
the Leightons, the Mullickens, or Moses Worster. The design exhibits a number of characteristic elements representative of their work. The distinctive design is on a typically shaped gravestone of the period, with a round tympanum flanked by round shoulders. Centered in the tympanum is an outlined round face and frowning lips. Framing the face are coils and six-point stars. The coil design is used in the borders around the tympanum and tablet panel. Indicative of Philbrick’s prominent status in Kingston, the inscription identifies him as esquire at the time of his death at age fifty-three. The son of an early settler to Kingston, Philbrick worked as a land surveyor and served as Deacon of the Congregational Church.

At least six headstones dating to the third quarter of the eighteenth century appear to be the work of Jonathan Hartshorne (born 1703-died after 1776), grandson of Jonathan Hartshorne, originator of the Merrimac Valley style of gravestone carving. Nearly all are red sandstone markers with round tympanums and round shoulders. The markers for Benjamin Choate (1753, Center Lot 262), Deacon Tristram Sanborn (1771, Center Lot 154), and Dorcas Hubbard (1774, Center Lot 148) all exhibit a number of features considered to be characteristic of Hartshorne’s work. These include thick frowning lips and highly arched wings with three layers of features, oval eyes, wig-like hair, and an elongated triangular nose resting on the top lip. The pinwheel finials and borders with swirling scrolls or vines are also distinguishing features of Hartshorne’s work. Common elements of the text include a mix of upper- and lower-case lettering and use of the terms “Interrd” and “DCSt”. He is known to have regularly used reddish-brown sandstone for his later work (Knoblock 1996, 76, 106).

By the 1780s slate became the more commonly used material in the Plains Cemetery. More than twenty-five slate headstones dating from the 1780s through the 1820s have a soul effigy design but with a more serene expression than earlier markers. At the same time, a new design, the urn and/or weeping willow motif became an increasingly popular design. Introduced in 1780s or 1790s and popular into the 1830s, some examples in the Plains Cemetery date to the 1860s. More than 125 of the slate headstones feature this highly popular design. It evolved from a simply drawn depiction to a more detailed and realistic one, and from a line drawing to a three-dimensional relief (Linden 1980, 149). The motif was borrowed from neo-classicism introduced through archaeological work on Roman sites in the eighteenth century that introduced the art and architecture of that period to English and Europeans (Linden 1980, 150). The popularity of the motif is contemporary with changing ideas about death and nature. Death was now seen in a more optimistic or rosy light, with the advent of a belief in individual salvation through good works and grace, replacing the sterner Calvinistic belief in predestination (Linden 1980, 150). Views of nature also changed in this period from that of a wild and dangerous place to one suitable for contemplation and meditation (Linden 1980, 151). These changing ideas, first evident in funerary art with the transition from death’s heads to soul effigies on gravestones, was followed by the adoption of the urn and willow motif. The change in imagery was accompanied by a change in transcriptions and epitaphs, with an increased use of vital details, sometimes accompanied by verses of consolation and hope instead of the earlier use of grim resignation and loss (Linden 1980, 152).

It strongly resembles the headstone of Benjamin Morrill (1754) in East Kingston, New Hampshire, attributed to Worster (Knoblock 1999, chap. 8). An examination of Philbrick’s probate might mention a stone carver in the account of the settlement of the estate.

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The French Family Lot (1743-1806, Orig. Center Lot 136A, 7 Contributing Objects) contains seven headstones (six slate, one grey sandstone) that are examples of carving styles of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The earliest two date to 1743 and feature a frowning soul effigy. The larger and more clearly expressive marker is that for Seccomb French (1743). The slate stone has a rounded tympanum flanked by rounded shoulders. Centered in the tympanum is soul effigy with a round face, deeply inset round eyes, downward turned mouth, and steeply peaked wings. Each shoulder is detailed with a pinwheel while the borders flanking the transcription panel are carved with vines. An abstract wavy design separates the transcription panel from the epitaph below. The William French (1743) is a smaller stone, and the design is a little cruder, though generally resembles the other one except it only has identifying information but no epitaph. These two stones may be the work of the Mullicken Family or a similar lesser well-known stone carver active in the Merrimack River Valley area in the eighteenth century, but further research is necessary to confirm that.

The slate stone for Ens. Nathaniel French (1775) appears to be the work of the Lamson family. The slate stone has a shallow tympanum and round shoulders and simple raised edge border design. The soul effigy design has an extended wingspan. The face exhibits characteristics common to Lamson family stones, notably a “finely cut face with a pompadour hairdo and outlined wings” with no detailing within the hair outline or wings (Tucker 1993, 196). The face is rounder, almost acorn-shaped and the mouth can be slightly crooked, as are the wings sometimes (Tucker 1993, 196).

The largest and most elaborate of the stones in the French family lot belongs to Col. Abraham French (1800), possibly the work of the Noyes Family of carvers. The stone features a three-lobed tympanum and square shoulders. The distinctive design combines the older soul effigy imagery and newer neoclassical imagery, notably a low relief urn, broken arch, and pilasters. The soul effigy features elements common to the work of the Noyes Family including closed lids, serene demeanor, finely coiffed hair, well-delineated wings (Knoblock 2019). The Abigail French (1798) stone, though simpler than her husband Nathaniel’s, may also be the work of the Noyes family, with a soul effigy set in a small tympanum flanked by concave shoulders. The Robert French (1801) slate stone also appears to be the work of the Noyes Family. The characteristic Noyes soul effigy spans the full width of the three-lobed tympanum, resting on low relief arch springing from Tuscan pilasters in the borders, framing the transcription panel. Small funerary urns rest on the arch extension, above the pilasters. In contrast with her husband Abraham’s marker, the one for Sarah French (1806) is a characteristic Noyes styled carved headstone of the early nineteenth century with a soul effigy in the tympanum and low relief pilasters in the borders.

The markers are for three generations of the French family, descendants of Nathaniel French (1678-1750), one of the town’s early settlers. His son, Ensign Nathaniel French, Jr. (1706-1775) fought in the French and Indian wars. Nathaniel Jr. and his second wife Abigail Eastman had eight children, three of whom are buried in this lot with them. Seccomb (1740-1743) and William (1738-1743) died within two days of each other. Son Abraham French (1733-1800) was one of the many Kingston men to sign the Association Test in 1776 and was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife Sarah Eastman had five children, of whom one, Robert Smith French (1761-1801) is buried with them.
The Calef Family Lot (1785-1836, Center Lot 229, 3 Contributing Objects) contains three slate markers dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Each features a popular motif common to that period, notably a soul effigy or urn and weeping willow. Like in the French Family Lot, the two older markers appear to be the work of two different well-known stone carving families. The gravestone of Miriam Calef (1785) appears to be the work of the third or fourth generation of the Lamson family of stoncutters (Knoblock 2019). By the late eighteenth century, the Lamson’s soul effigies had several different styles, of which the Miriam Calef design is one. Characteristic elements include a face with a “wide-eyed” look created by open, nearly round eyes and the outline of a nose connected to the eyes and a round mouth. The design consists of a “finely cut face with a pompadour hairdo and outlined wings” with no detailing within the hair outline (Tucker 1993, 196). The face is rounder, almost acorn-shaped and the mouth can be slightly crooked, as are the wings sometimes. The lettering can be in cursive script as is the case on this stone, which is an example of some of the finer lettering found in the cemetery. In addition, the numeral one is often carved as the letter J, such as occurs on this marker (Tucker 1993, 193).

The slightly later Molly Calef (1790) slate headstone appears to be the work of Paul Noyes as it exhibits a number of design elements found on his soul effigies including closed eye lids, finely coiffed hair, and well-delineated wings (Knoblock 2019).

The third marker in the Calef Family lot is that for Joseph Calef (1836) and features the urn and willow design which had become common by the 1830s. The slate stone has a large round tympanum and narrow square shoulders. The design consists of an urn set within an arched opening with a crosshatched background. The branches of the willow are draped around the arch. Like other stones from the period, the tablet section above the epitaph has a frieze with incised semicircles.

The Calef Lot contains the graves of Joseph Calef and his first two wives. Calef, the grandson of one of Kingston’s early settlers and a Revolutionary War veteran, was just nineteen years of age when he signed up. In 1805 Calef left Kingston to move to Hallowell, Maine, but he later returned to Kingston. His first wife, Miriam Bartlett (1758-1785) was the daughter of Governor Josiah Bartlett and his wife Mary. As her gravestone states, Calef’s second wife, Molly Hook (1762-1790), was the daughter of Moses Hook, Esq., (Hosier 2015, 247).

The marker for Tristram Sanborn and Hannah Sanborn (1789, 1793, Center Lot 150, 1 Contributing Object) is one of at least two examples in the Plains Cemetery of a dual slate stone for a husband and wife. This type of stone, though not uncommon, is a sign of wealth. The distinctive design in the tympanum consists of a pair of funerary urns separated by a heart with vines arching over each urn to meet at the heart. Above is a winged soul effigy. The rest of the marker has little detailing. The stone is likely by a Noyes family carver (Knoblock 2019). The other, for Judith and Moses Welch (1820, Center Lot 233, 1 Contributing Object), is later and much simpler, with a pair of tympanums, each with a lightly inscribed draped funerary urn centered in each. The inscription reads “In Memory of Elder Moses Welch & his wife Judith Welch Who lived together 65 years.”

Several examples of the work of two stone carvers active in the first half of the nineteenth century can be found in the Plains Cemetery. The slate markers for Amos Clark (1839,
Center Lot 279, 1 Contributing Object) and Elizabeth Clark (1847, Center Lot 279, 1 Contributing Object) have the signature of “Eastman Exeter,” indicating they are the work of Timothy G. Eastman (ca. 1803-1849), a manufacturer of monuments and gravestones. Both stones illustrate the more manufactured nature of slate gravestones by this time. The Amos Clark marker consists of a low-relief large weeping willow draped over a small urn set in the tympanum against a basket-weaved background. Below, the entablature features a row of triangles above a row of three semi-circular abstract floral designs. The triangle pattern is repeated in the border. By contrast, the more simply detailed marker for Elizabeth Clark has just a large weeping willow tree in the tympanum and the only other design is the triangle pattern in the frieze and border. More research is necessary to learn more about Eastman’s work.

The Plains Cemetery contains some slate headstones that combine characteristic imagery such as a willow or funerary urn with some other designs. One such example is the small slate headstone for John E. Clark (ca. 1815, Center Lot 139, 1 Contributing Object), the three-year old son of Daniel and Anna Clark. The tympanum has a lobed profile, and the carved design is a large funerary urn surrounded by swirls and vines. By the 1850s marble or white sandstone began to be used for markers in the Plains Cemetery, and by the end of the 1860s it had largely replaced slate entirely. Marble or white sandstone markers make up the greatest number of memorials in the Plains Cemetery, numbering more than 350 and ranging in date from the mid-nineteenth century to just after the turn of the twentieth century. The majority are individual markers, though sometimes memorializing two people.

Along with the use of a new material, the layouts and designs on the markers change. While the majority are simple, flat top or low angle top marble slabs with little ornament or square tops, some have a round, serpentine, multi-lobed, or lancet profile. Later ones sometimes have engaged pilasters on the corners. The imagery is more restrained imagery, or in many cases no imagery is present, with just an inscription with the name of the individual and birth and death year. Any imagery is typically a bas-relief design set in an oval, round, or square inset, particularly those for women and children, or on occasion for men who died in early adulthood. The most common bas-relief designs include wilted roses, a sheaf of wheat, or a hand with the index finger pointing up to heaven. Many also have an epitaph inscribed at the bottom in cursive lettering.

The Gale Family Lot (1824-1854, Center Lot 248A, 4 Contributing Objects) contains four examples of simple marble tablets, detailed only with vital information, and footstones. The lot is outlined with granite curbing and corner and mid-stones with pyramidal caps. The family name is in bas-relief on the front of the step into the plot. The two earliest stones, for Amos Gale Jr. (1768-1824) and his wife Sarah (1773-1847), daughter of Josiah Bartlett, have identical stones. The bas-relief lettering of the full name is set in an arched panel. Below are

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8 Eastman advertised in the 1849 Advertising Register of the New England Mercantile Union Business Directory. In the Business Register advertisement, he identifies himself as a “Manufacturer of Monuments and Grave-Stones., Counters, Table Tops, Soda Founts, &c.” (Anonymous 1949),
birth and death dates. The other two tablets in the plot, belonging to Jr.’s son Ezra B. (1797-1854) and his wife Ruth (1804-1841) are also marble tablets but in poor condition.

Like the Bartletts (to whom the Gales were related by marriage), three generations of the family were physicians in Kingston. Amos Gale, Jr. was the son of the physician Amos Gale (1744-1813) who had studied medicine with Dr. Josiah Bartlett. Amos Jr. studied medicine with his father and with Levi Bartlett (son of Josiah) and attended lectures in Boston before establishing his practice in his hometown of Kingston. His wife Sally or Sarah was the youngest child of Josiah Bartlett. Gale also held various local offices including serving as town clerk for twenty-three years and as Representative in the Legislature in 1808 (Anonymous 1847, 97; Hurd 1882, 378). Gale’s eldest son, Ezra Bartlett Gale (1797-1854), was also a physician. He trained with his father, with his uncle Dr. Levi Bartlett, and attended medical lectures in Boston for a year before returning to Kingston to practice with his father until 1821. For the next several years, until 1827, he practiced in several neighboring towns and received a M.D. in 1823 from Brown University. He returned to Kingston in 1827 and established his own practice, remaining there until his death (Anonymous 1847, 97-98).

Examples of more detailed marble tables include seven of the ten markers in the Colcord Family Lot (1831-1875, Center Lot 284, 10 Contributing Objects). The seven marble stones have slightly pedimented tops and vital details. The bas-relief lettering of the given name is near the top of the transcription panel within a narrow rectangular panel, with additional information, such as a spouse’s name, death date, and age at time of death, inscribed in a mix of cursive and straight lettering. Most also have an epitaph at the bottom. One marker, that for Mary E. Colcord (1862), the nineteen-year-old daughter of Samuel W. and Sarah E. Colcord, has a bas-relief wilted rose inset in a round panel near the pinnacle of the stone. The smallest one is for an infant and a young child. The lot also contains three slate markers, all with variations of the urn and/or willow motif, the oldest of which is that for Polly Colcord (1831), wife of Capt. Daniel Colcord.

The Colcord Family Lot contains ten markers for three generations of the Colcord family, descendants of some of the town’s original European settlers. The three slate markers are for Captain Daniel Colcord (1781-1851) and his wife Polly Woodman (1792-1831). Daniel was a farmer and for a time a plough maker (RCRD Book 246, Page 157; Book 260, Page 445). They had eight children, of whom two are buried in the family lot. One is their daughter Mary S. (1816-1842). The seven marble markers are for Daniel and Polly’s son Samuel W. (1813-1875), his two wives (Sarah E. [1823-1844] and Sarah A. [1815-1862]), and some of his children. Samuel W. was a shoe manufacturer (Bureau of the Census 1850).

The marker for Luella P. Carlton (1847, Center Lot 296, 1 Contributing Object) is one of the more elaborately detailed examples of a marble marker. The rectangular marker has a rectangular panel with a bas-relief design of an angel holding a wilted rose attached to a bunch of wilting roses. The name is set in relief within an arch trimmed with a scrolled design. Additional foliate designs are set above the arch. Luella P. Carlton, the daughter of Benjamin M. and Nancy Carlton was just nineteen years of age at the time of her death.

The marble markers for the two brothers, Eugene A. Brown (1861) and Everett A. Brown (1865) (Center Lot 170, 2 Contributing Objects) are examples of marble stones with bas-
relief design frequently found on markers for children. The two markers have arched tops edged with a molding and arched inset panels with a bas-relief design of a hand holding a wilted rose. The teenage boys were the sons of Albert Brown, a successful carriage maker, and his wife Flora A.

For several decades beginning in the 1860s or 1870s, some markers employed a lancet arch profile, concurrent with the popularity of the Gothic style in the Victorian era. The Plains Cemetery has at least twenty-three examples of this form of marker. The three marble headstones in the Oakes Family Lot (South Section Lot 31, 3 Contributing Objects) are representative examples, though each is slightly different. Those for Jennie Oakes (1878) and her husband Thomas H. Oakes (1896) have a lancet arched tympanum edged with a robust ovolo springing from bases. Whereas a single bas-relief wilted rose is centered in the tympanum of the Jennie Oakes headstone, the Masonic symbol is used on the headstone of Thomas Oakes. The third marker, for their six-month-old daughter Jennie Oakes (1878) is smaller and simpler with a molded outer edge around the center panel. Thomas H. Oakes, a native of Prince Edward Island, was a blacksmith. His wife Jennie died from childbirth complications.

The pair for William C. Patten (1873), and his first wife Laura Frances Patten (1858, South Section Lot 28B, 2 Contributing Objects) have a robust molded outer edge and a pedimented tympanum topped with trefoils. The bas-relief lettering of their given names is set within an arched panel. Whereas her transcription only includes vital information above a length epitaph, his marker features an engaged draped urn above his transcription. Patten (1819-1873), a native of Kingston whose grandfather had settled in Kingston before the Revolution, began the practice of law in 1857 when in his late thirties. He served as a representative in the Legislature in 1857 and again in 1871 and 1872, as State senator in 1861 and 1862, and councilor in 1867 and 1868. He also served in multiple civil offices over time (Hurd 1882, 378; Hosier 2015, 335-336).

Another example is the pair of markers for Rev. William W. Wilson (1874) and his wife Sarah T. Wilson (1897, South Section Lot 41, 2 Contributing Objects). The pair of markers exhibit more religious symbols and text than most other markers in the Plains Cemetery. Each marble stone has a lancet shaped tympanum and scrolled shoulders. Her stone has a bas-relief design of a cross laid diagonally behind a crown in the tympanum, with the epitaph below “The Cross before the Crown.” His stone has a bas-relief design of a hand grasping a cross. In addition, the lengthy transcription names the several Universalist Parishes in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts Wilson served (though not the Kingston one). Sarah Wilson (nee Woodman) was a Kingston native.

Also used on occasion later in the nineteenth century is the shield monument. The Plains Cemetery has at least two examples of this style of marker, used for Simeon P. Clark (1867) and his wife Johanna E. Clark ([1881], Center Lot 279, 2 Contributing Objects). This style of marble marker consists of a bas-relief shield set on a robustly profiled tablet which is set on a base. The vital information is placed on the shield design, with the bas-relief lettering of the name set within an arched panel.
The Plains Cemetery also contains several examples of markers typically used for children. Small blocks have the vital information, upon which a small sculpture, frequently a lamb, sits atop the block. One such example is the marker for Leonella L. Clark (1858, Center Lot 279, 1 Contributing Object), the daughter of Simeon P. and Johannah E. Clark.

The Plains Cemetery has one example of a white zinc marker, a material that is easily recognizable due to its blue-gray color. The double marker for William F. and Mary A. Sanborn (ca. 1888, North Section Lot 2, 1 Contributing Object) consists of a pair of arches with thick moldings and trefoil detailing. The outer end of each arch springs from an engaged pilaster and the other ends rest atop a shallow arched recessed panel that separates each transcription panel which includes not only “Father” and “Mother” but also names, death dates, and ages at time of death. The surname is embossed in capital letters on the base. Though not common, white zinc markers could be purchased out of a Sears catalogue, though a few monument companies also specialized in manufacturing markers in this material (Knoblock 2019). William F. Sanborn was a farmer, descendant of one of Kingston’s early settlers, and served as postmaster for a time in the 1860s.

The Plains Cemetery has more than twenty-five large, ornamental monuments of various forms. These include marble obelisks and marble or granite pedestal monuments, some topped by urns, and most set on one or two rectangular bases. They range in date from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. They are concentrated in the South and North section, on family plots which often also contain small bevel markers to indicate burial locations of the individuals identified on the face (or faces) of the monument. The few in the center section often share a plot with older headstones from the early nineteenth century, indicative of the monument’s placement at a later date by a descendant of the individuals first buried in the plot.

The most elaborate pedestal monument in the Plains Cemetery is the Major Edward S. Sanborn Monument (1885, South Section Lot 140, 1 Contributing Object). It is centered on a double lot and memorializes Edward S. Sanborn (1819-1885). The large marble square shaft rises above a two-stage base of a granite lower one, and a marble upper one where the name is inscribed on the west face. The shaft is topped by pediments on each face. Above is a draped funerary urn. Each face is framed by beveled molded edges with a trefoil at the top. The pediment at the top of each face is decorated by a variety of classically inspired moldings. Though one face has the inscription for Sanborn’s business partner and mistress Julia A. Hilton, she is not buried in Plains Cemetery.

A native of Kingston and descendant of one of the original European settlers, Sanborn is perhaps the town’s most colorful nineteenth-century figure. He was “a conspicuous and public-spirited citizen, who was widely known in his native State as a liberal patron of the cause of education and religion” (Biddeford Daily Journal, 23 September 1885, p. 2). His fortune, however, derived from illegal means, as the proprietor of multiple houses of prostitution in Boston, Massachusetts. Sanborn’s generosity to his hometown included funding in the early 1880s for the establishment of Sanborn Seminary (NR 1984), to provide education beyond grade eight. Sanborn endowed the institution “... as a token of his regard
for his native town and his appreciation of the importance of education.”^9 Though he resided in Boston as an adult, Sanborn remained active in the public affairs of Kingston, donating to the local Congregational, Methodist, and Universalist churches and public improvements. In the 1870s, he served a two-year term as the Kingston representative in the New Hampshire legislature (*Biddeford Daily Journal*, 23 September 1885, p. 2). His military rank is honorary.

The Sanborn Monument (1849, 1857, Orig Center Lot 149, 1 Contributing Object) is a tapered marble column set on a square shaft. The monument sits on a high square granite base. The shaft has chamfered corners detailed with round bas-relief ornament. The column is detailed with a lancet at the top of each inset panel. Inscribed on the west face of the shaft are the names of Moses Sanborn Esq. (died 1857) and his wife Betsey (died 1849) and their dates of death and ages at time of death. Moses Sanborn (1790-1857) was President of the Granite State Bank and of the Rockingham and Atlantic Insurance Companies in Exeter (*NEHGR* 1857 (vol 11, January), 367).

A marble obelisk example is the Peaslee Family Lot (ca. 1877, North Section Lot 41B, 1 Contributing Object). The monument is centered on the lot which is outlined with granite curbing and large corner stones with vaulted tops. The monument sits on a granite base. Above is a base (with the surname in bas-relief on the west face) supporting a short shaft and capital with an ovolo profile above which the obelisk rises. The west and south faces of the shaft are inscribed with the vital information for Mary Peaslee (died 1877) and her husband Simmons Secomb Peaslee (1809-1895). Small block markers with “Husband” and “Wife” in bas-relief indicate the internment locations. By 1880, Simmons S. Peaslee operated the family sawmill in South Kingston (Preservation Company 2002, 30).

The Chase Family Lot (late nineteenth century, South Section Lot 1, 9 Contributing Objects) memorializes three generations of the Chase family, descendants of two long-time Kingston families, the Calefs and the Chases. The marble pedestal monument sits on a high base and consists of an obelisk rising above a short shaft. Each face of the shaft is topped by a segmental arch. The plot includes individual markers for each of the family members. The oldest three are marble tablets and the other five are simple tablets on bases. The plot is outlined by granite curbing and vaulted top cornerstones and mid-point stones. At least ten family members are buried in the family lot, including Amos Chase (1801-1873) and his wife Hannah P. (1811-1888), their son Amos C. Chase (1833-1910) and his two wives Hattie E. (died 1861) and Emily A. (1846-1890), and three children of Amos and Emily. Amos Chase and his son Amos C. were early successful carriage makers. By the 1870s, the younger Chase was manufacturing an average of 300 carriages per year (Hurd 1882, 381). He also served in both branches of the state legislature and sat on governor’s council (Moses 1894, 365).

The Bassett Family Lot (ca. 1889, North Section Lot 8, 1 Contributing Object) is a red granite pedestal monument example, centered on the plot which is outlined with granite curbing and granite corner stones that have vaulted tops. The base and square shaft, which sit on a granite base, are topped by a large red granite funerary urn. The names of Thomas Bassett, M.D. (1797-1889) and his wife Miranda S. (1809-1900) are inscribed on the south face, above

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^9 Inscription on the base of the bust of Sanborn, originally located in the Main Hall of the Sanborn Seminary but is now located at the new Sanborn High School (Monroe and Scott 1983, 3; Powers 2021).
the surname which is incised on the base. Small granite bevel markers indicate the internment location of the Bassets. Thomas Bassett maintained a medical practice in Kingston for sixty-five years and was considered an authority on fevers and occult (not readily visible) diseases (History Book Committee 1994, V-2). A native of Derry, N.H., he established a practice in Kingston a year after receiving a Doctor in Medicine in 1824 at Dartmouth College. He was active not only in the New Hampshire Medical Society, holding several offices, but also held several civic positions including Justice of the Peace (Anonymous 1847, 99). Miranda Bassett had sold the land which became the north addition of the cemetery.

The Peaslee Family Lot (late nineteenth century, South Section Lot 25, 1 Contributing Object) is a red granite shaft with chamfered edges, topped by a robust multitiered granite capital. The shaft rises from a two-stage base, with the family name in relief on the south face of the upper one. The lot has granite curbing and distinctive double-drop-topped stones at the corners and midpoints. Five members of the Peaslee family, whose names and birth and death dates are inscribed on each of the faces are interred in the family plot. They include Luther D. Peaslee, his two wives, one daughter and his sister.

Luther D. Peaslee (1810-1905) long ran a general store, beginning in the 1840s, before selling it to the Bakie Brothers in 1880 (Preservation Company 2002, 30). A native of Kingston, he began his mercantile career initially in Holly, New York, where he established a country store. In 1844 he returned to Kingston and purchased a store, becoming “the leading merchant in Kingston” (Boston Journal 2 March 1905). He held various civil offices including postmaster, town treasurer, and State Legislature in 1881 and 1882, and also as a trustee of the Kingston Academy.

In addition to the family monuments, the Plains Cemetery also has two cenotaphs. The Memorial for Ministers (1850, Center Lot 165, 1 Contributing Object) is the older of the two. The unornamented white marble obelisk is set on a high granite base. The Town of Kingston erected the monument in 1850 to the honor of the first four eighteenth-century ministers of the Congregational Church organized in 1725: Rev. Ward Clark (died 1737), Rev. Joseph Secomb (1706-1760), Rev. Amos Tappan (died 1771), and Rev. Elihu Thayer (1748-1812). One name is inscribed on each face, along with the date of ordination or installation as minister. Ward Clark (1703-1737) served as the first minister of the church. During his tenure he played a major role in building not only a congregation but also a Second Meetinghouse and a parsonage. The Throat distemper pandemic led to his early death at age thirty-three. Secomb served twenty-three years from 1737 until his death, through the turbulent times of the Great Awakening, and the hiving off several parishes. Tappan became the new minister in 1762, serving less than ten years before his untimely death at age thirty-five in 1771. Comparatively little is known about his tenure due to limited records from that period. Thayer, the last of the ministers honored, was called to be the fourth minister of the Congregational Church and was the longest serving of the four men. His pastorate spanned over thirty-five years and only ended with his death in 1812. Thayer is the only one of the four men known to have been buried in the cemetery (Center Lot 265B).10

10 Ward is buried in his hometown of Exeter, New Hampshire. The burial locations of the Secomb and Tappan have not been determined.
Massachusetts, Thayer graduated from Princeton College and then settled into his ministry in Kingston, where he was ordained in December 1776. During his lengthy tenure he successfully increased the size of the congregation. He served as president of the New Hampshire Missionary Society for a number of years, until stepping down in 1811 (Stearns 1908, III:1031). Thayer’s death represented the end of an era for the Congregational Church as in subsequent years ministers served only a few years before leaving (History Book Committee 1994, VI-1 - VI-20).

The Major Henry Lyman Patten Monument (1864, South Section Lot 27, 1 Contributing Object) is also a cenotaph. It memorializes Henry Lyman Patten (1836-1864), who served in the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. The simple unornamented red granite obelisk rests on a two-stage granite base. The inscription on the north face of the monument gives his birth and death dates, name of regiment, number of years served, and notes that Lyman was mortally wounded at Deep Bottom, Virginia.

Patten, a native of Kingston and Harvard graduate, is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his four years of service during the Civil War he was wounded five times, including at Gettysburg.

By the late nineteenth century and continuing into the twentieth century, granite became the common material for markers in the Plains Cemetery. Many of the lots with internments and markers from this period, have just a single block monument, set on a one or two-tiered base. They can be rectangular or squarer. The latter tend to have some foliate design or scroll near the top, often draped around the corners. Typically, they are the center stone of a family plot, sometimes marked just with the family surname in bas-relief, or alternatively the demographic information is inscribed on the faces of the marker. The top can be flat or hipped (rough cut or gabled). In some instances, small bevel markers, with initials or labels such as “mother,” or “brother” are also present to indicate the location of each grave.

The Chase Family Lot (late nineteenth century, North Section Lot 49, 9 Contributing Object) has a characteristic granite block monument with foliate decoration. Eight small bevel markers with bas-relief initials indicate the internment location of the family members: Samuel C. Chase (1795-1862), first wife Peace Chase (1797-1836), second wife Mary Ann Chase (1815-1903), and at least five of their children. Chase was a farmer in Kingston.

The early twentieth century Bakie Family Monument (South Section Lot 18, 1 Contributing Object) is a gray granite block monument set on a granite base and rising to a with a hipped top and pediments. The family name is in relief at the bottom of the west face of the block. The rough-cut top has polished pediments on each face, with a “B” on the west one and decorative detailing on the other three. Individual names and birth and death years are inscribed on all four faces. The lot includes at least ten graves of Bakie family members from several generations beginning with James Bakie (1825-1901) and his wife Elizabeth (Alexander) Bakie (1828-1903). Others buried there include at least four of their children, including two who died young (an infant daughter Elizabeth, died 1850, and son James R. died 1899), plus son George M. (1862-1936) and his wife Ethelyn; son John H. (1860-1906) and his wife Elizabeth M. (died 1907); and George M.’s son John James (1911-1997) and his wife Adine D. (1915-2008).
James Bakie and his wife Elizabeth had emigrated from Scotland around 1840, settling first in the Boston area but then moving to Kingston in the 1850s where Bakie took up farming. Bakie’s farm had one of the larger orchards in town by 1880 (Preservation Company 2002, 29). Bakie “became a prominent citizen” serving not only as selectmen but also as representative to the legislature (Hazlett 1915, 764). James’ sons, including James and John H. had opened the Bakie Brothers, a general store in the village in 1875; youngest son George M. would later also work in the store. In 1880, the Bakie sons acquired the Peaslee store and remained in business into the mid-twentieth century (Preservation Company 2002, 30).

A red granite block monument example is the **Ingalls-Kemp Family Monument (ca. 1894, North Section Lot 76, 1 Contributing Object)**. It stands on a pair of graduated bases, the lower one grey granite and the upper one red granite on which surnames are inscribed on the west and south faces. The rectangular block has a decorated frieze and is topped with a hipped capital with pediments on each face, on which different items are inscribed including a Masonic symbol on the west one. The west face of the block is inscribed with the vital information for Fred W. Ingalls (1858-1894) and his wife Nellie F. French (1865-1932) and on the south face that of their only child, Winifred P. Ingalls (1886-1953) and her husband Charles W. Kemp (1888-1966). Fred Williams Ingalls, a native of Canterbury, New Hampshire, and 1884 graduate of the University of Vermont Medical School, had a medical practice with Dr. T. O. Reynolds in Kingston for a time after settling in town before setting up a large solo practice. Active in local politics he served the town as supervisor, town clerk, Board of Education member, and representative to the state legislature (1893-1894) until his early death (Lyford 1912, II:202). Nellie lived with her parents after her husband’s death. She was a long-time librarian at the Nichols Memorial Library (Directory 1901; Bureau of the Census 1910).

On the north side of Cemetery Lane, immediately west of the burial grounds is a wood-framed, end-gable building that appears to date to the late nineteenth century (**1 Contributing Building)**. On the south elevation is a wood plaque set just below the cornice with “Kingston Plains Cemetery” in raised letters. Double-leaved vertical board doors are centered on each gable end. The west end pair are hung with large strap hinges while the east end ones, which are smaller, are hung with smaller exterior hinges and secured with a box lock. A 6/6 wood sash window on the south elevation provides light to the interior. The exterior is sheathed with clapboards and is simply detailed with plain corner boards and entablature, and cornice returns on the gable ends. Originally it housed the horse drawn hearse; it is now used to store lawn care equipment for maintenance of the cemetery.

On the west edge of the cemetery, at the eastern terminus of Cemetery Lane is a mortared stone well of unknown date (**1 Non-contributing Object**). A modern hand pump sits atop a thick piece of pressure-treated wood which covers the well opening. The exterior well has been repaired over the years with different kinds of cement mortar. Large low fieldstones are arrayed in a rectangle around the well.

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11 The building is located at the southeast corner of an adjoining parcel (Tax map 9, Lot 2, 153 Main Street) but the building is owned by the town.
Integrity

The Plains Cemetery retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, feeling, association, and materials. The setting has evolved over time, mostly within the historic period, as the land adjacent to the cemetery has been developed with houses that range in date from the late eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The three major land additions occurred in the nineteenth century, largely establishing its acreage by 1900. The other two additions were small and are used primarily for extra space for a vehicle or moving through the grounds. Some references in deeds suggest that historically the cemetery had some stone walls along some of its boundaries, but they are no longer extant, nor is the Town tomb that was once located along the southwest side of the cemetery. The cemetery is now used only occasionally so an overwhelming majority of the markers are historic. Some markers have been damaged due to weathering and passage of time and many are covered with lichen and moss so they need a restoration and cleaning campaign but otherwise most stones are in good condition.
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.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] 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.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [x] C. A birthplace or grave
- [x] 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
Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social History
- Community Planning and Development
- Art
- Politics and Government
- Health and Medicine

Period of Significance
1725-1970 (Criterion A)
1795 (Criterion B)
1725-1920 (Criterion C)

Significant Dates
1725 (establishment of cemetery)
1859 (first south addition)
1869 (second south addition)
1890 (north addition)
1957 (small addition southwest side)

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Gov. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Jonathan Hartshore (1703-after ca. 1776)
Joseph Lamson (1728-1789)?
Joseph Lamson (1760-1808)?
Robert Mullicken?
Paul Noyes (1740/1-1810)
John Marble (1764-1844)
Timothy G. Eastman (died 1849)
Plains Cemetery, the oldest public cemetery in Kingston, New Hampshire, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C and Criterion Considerations C and D. Under Criterion A, the public cemetery has strong associations with the history of the town of Kingston. Established ca. 1725, around the time of the construction of the second meetinghouse, it contains the graves of a broad cross-section of town residents ranging from ordinary citizens and children to prominent physicians, lawyers, manufacturers, and civic leaders. For having the honor of preserving the burial site of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), the second signer of the Declaration of Independence, first Governor of New Hampshire, and one of the founders of the New Hampshire Medical Society (and its first president), Plains Cemetery qualifies under Criterion B. Under Criterion C, Plains Cemetery reflects the characteristic design of an eighteenth-century town burying ground that was the primary town burying ground through much of the nineteenth century and the evolving designs of funerary monuments in New England from the mid-eighteenth century to the second quarter of the twentieth century. The flat grass-covered terrain, few landscape elements, and rectilinear layout of the monuments and several unpaved paths are characteristic of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century burying grounds before the emergence of the rural landscape cemetery movement. The cemetery is known to contain over 1,400 burials, of which an overwhelming majority predate 1970. The period of significance is ca. 1725 to 1970 under Criterion A, reflecting the opening of the cemetery and the fifty-year cut-off of the National Register. Under Criterion B, the period of significance is 1795, coinciding with the date of internment of Governor Josiah Bartlett. Under Criterion C, the period of significance extends from ca. 1725 to ca. 1920, by which time funerary monuments were relatively standardized, produced more by machine rather than hand carving. The Plains Cemetery qualifies under Criteria Considerations C and D as the final resting place of Governor Josiah Bartlett, a person of exceptional significance in determining the course of New Hampshire’s history, for its association with the evolving patterns of Kingston’s history, and for the aesthetic significance of the gravestones and monuments. The three major additions occurred within the historic period, all in the nineteenth century. Although it has suffered some damage from weather, and many of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century stones need cleaning, the cemetery remains intact, retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A (areas of significance: Social History and Community Planning and Development)

Social History

The Plains Cemetery is a locally important historic resource reflecting the social history of the community from the first quarter of the eighteenth century to the third quarter of the twentieth century. For over 130 years, from the time of its establishment in 1725 until 1857, it served as Kingston’s only public cemetery. Over the next 100 years it was one of only two public cemeteries in town. It has always served as a community cemetery, providing a final resting place for both families and individuals. The gravestones and monuments of Plains Cemetery represent in visual form the span of much of Kingston’s history, from the early settlement by the early eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Individuals from all walks of life, social status, and of all ages are buried in the cemetery. Interred and memorialized in Kingston’s oldest cemetery are not only the family members and descendants of some of the towns original and early settlers but also the religious, industrial, commercial, medical, and military leaders, as well as ordinary citizens who comprised the town establishment and development over three centuries. Plains Cemetery contains graves of many prominent local citizens including manufacturers, businessmen, at least ten physicians, lawyers, ministers, shop keepers and store owners, military men, and teachers, as well as ordinary citizens including farmers, shoemakers, carpenters, and mill workers who lived and worked in Kingston. Some people buried in Plains Cemetery lived their entire lives in Kingston, others came as children, or arrived as adults for work, and some returned in old age. The cemetery contains a small poor lot with some old, unmarked stones for those unable to pay for themselves.

Concentrated in the original section are the graves of at least sixteen Revolutionary War veterans. Scattered through the cemetery are the graves of twenty-five Civil War veterans and one cenotaph of a veteran mortally wounded in a battle and buried elsewhere. At least fifteen Kingston residents who served the town as Representatives in the New Hampshire Legislature in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century are buried in the cemetery. Some of the nineteenth and twentieth-century monuments display the emblems and insignia of various fraternal organizations (Masons, Odd Fellows, Woodmen, etc.), evidence of the significant role such groups played in the community.

The most prominent individual to be buried in the Plains Cemetery is Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), the second signer of the Declaration of Independence after John Hancock, first constitutional governor of New Hampshire, and founder of the New Hampshire Medical Society. Bartlett’s wife Mary Bartlett (1730-1789) is buried with her husband. She maintained a weekly correspondence with her husband while he was attending Congress,
which represent a rich cache of documents about late eighteenth-century and Revolutionary domestic life in Kingston, in addition to much local news (Mevers 1979, xvi). Other Bartlett family members buried in the Plains Cemetery include two of Josiah and Mary’s daughters, Miriam (1758-1785) and Sarah (1773-1847), and their spouses Joseph Calef (died 1836) and Dr. Amos Gale Jr. (died 1824); daughter Lois (1756-1798) who never married; son Levi (1763-1828) who remained in Kingston and became a physician like his father (as did his son and namesake Levi S. [1811-1865]) and his two wives Sally (died 1793) and Abigail (died 1840), and some later descendants also.

Many other families, often descendants of original or early settlers are buried in the Plains Cemetery. These include members of the Calef, Colcord, Eastman, French, Hubbard, Philbrick, Sanborn, and Webster families, to name just a few.

Community Planning and Development

Plains Cemetery is also significant under Community Planning and Development. While the original circumstances of the establishment of the burying ground have not been established from town and deed records at this time, local history sources traditionally date its establishment to 1725. That date corresponds to the formal organization of the Congregational Church and ordination of Ward Clark (1703-1737) as the first minister. With increasing settlement and the formal establishment of a church, the need for a town burying ground became a necessity (Preservation Company 2002, 5, 7). Up to that time and continuing into the nineteenth century some citizens used small private family cemeteries. The cemetery was never located adjacent to a meeting house, the first of which was located on the southwest side of the Plains, opposite Scotland Road. The second meetinghouse stood closer, at the west end of Rockrimmon Road.

In the nineteenth century, the “old burying ground” or “old cemetery,” as it is referred to in deeds, was expanded. The additions, first twice to the south side and then once to the north, resulted in an additional 161 lots, less than double the number in the original center section. Some of the lots were sold as third, half, or double lots. The first addition occurred in 1858 with the acquisition of a slightly asymmetrical fifty-eight-rod parcel from Levi S. Bartlett, physician and grandson of Josiah Bartlett, and his wife Aroline E. Bartlett (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds Book 385, Page 129). Just over ten years later, Mrs. Bartlett sold a five-rod by ten-rod parcel abutting the earlier one, also for use as a burying ground. In both instances, the purchasers were to keep the property fenced (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds Book 431, Page 122). Ultimately these two additions provided forty-four new rectangular plots, some of which were later halved. In 1890, Louis G. Hoyt (1856-1933), acquired a parcel abutting the north side of the burying ground from Miranda S. Bassett, widow of Dr. Thomas Bassett for $200 (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 521, Page 334). The parcel was subdivided from her homestead property that fronted on Main Street. At the time, an “old wall” ran along a part of the west side of the old burying ground. This north addition provided 117 new plots that Hoyt sold over a period of time, some as half lots and some as double lots.

12 Due to COVID-19 it was not possible to examine the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century town records that likely contain additional information about the early history of the cemetery, any expenditures, and how it was maintained.
By the 1920s, the Trustees of Trust Funds had assumed the financial responsibility for maintaining the cemetery (along with the other public cemeteries at that time), with specific oversight by the Cemetery Sexton, an elected position at that time.

In 1957, a small addition was made to the cemetery when Laura Evelyn Bake, the wife of Ralph H. Bake, gave a 10' by 116' rectangular parcel to the town. This thin, rectangular addition to the southwest corner of cemetery helped to make the grounds more of a rectangle. The deed notes the location is near the former location of the Town tomb (Rockingham County Registry of Deeds Book 1447, Page 293).

The last addition occurred in 1977 to the southeast corner of the cemetery. Mrs. Catherine Clements provided a triangular piece of land with a length of 132 feet along the eastern boundary, in exchange for a cemetery lot in the cemetery. The small piece provided land for a turnaround at the east end of a dead-end lane in the cemetery (Town of Kingston 1978, 24).

Plains Cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in Kingston. It is used only on occasion, as few unused plots or areas remain. It is one of six historic cemeteries in town, in addition to several small family plots. South Kingston residents used Happy Hollow and Mill Stream cemeteries, both small neighborhood cemeteries. The former was in use by the late eighteenth century and the latter by the 1830s. Pine Grove or West Kingston Cemetery dates to 1857 and remains in use. Greenwood Cemetery, the newest of the public cemeteries, dates to 1919.

**Criterion B (areas of significance: Politics/Government and Health/Medicine)**

The Plains Cemetery is significant under Criterion B for containing the grave of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), who made outstanding contributions to the history of the Nation, the State of New Hampshire, and the Town of Kingston, the place in which his grave is located. Josiah Bartlett is noteworthy for his political contributions at the national level which included helping establish the Continental Congress, being the second signer of the Declaration of Independence after John Hancock, and voting for and signing the Articles of Confederation. He is also noteworthy for his contributions at the state level, holding various provincial and state offices during his lifetime, including Judge of Common Pleas, general court (the colonial legislature), Judge of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, and election as first constitutional governor of New Hampshire, serving two terms from 1790 to 1794. He also was one of the founders of the New Hampshire Medical Society and its first president.

Born on 21 November 1729 in Amesbury, Massachusetts, to Stephen and Hannah-Mary (Webster) Bartlett, Josiah Bartlett was the last of seven children born in the family. His father was a shoemaker and the family lived near the ferry landing by the Merrimack River. Bartlett received some early formal education from the local schoolmaster. He showed an early and keen interest in the library and profession of a relative, Nehemiah Ordway, a physician in Amesbury. Unable to attend college for financial reasons, he began an apprenticeship with Dr. Ordway around 1747. In 1750, the young doctor moved to Kingston, New Hampshire, which at the time was still sparsely settled. From that time until his death he resided in Kingston. For the next decade or two he tended to the medical needs of the residents of Kingston and on several occasions discarded then traditional treatments for diseases such as enclosing a patient in an unventilated and overly warm space or avoiding bloodletting, purging, and sweating, all then popular medical treatments that often proved as deadly as the
infection or disease itself (Packard 1901, 91). In particular, he established or identified new medical treatments including use of cooling liquids for fever and peruvian bark or quinine in controlling Diphtheria (Mevers 1979).

As he developed his medical practice, he also became active in politics. He began his lengthy and distinguished political career as a town selectman, serving first in 1757 and reelected in 1761, 1764, 1768, 1769, 1773, and 1774. In 1765 the Royal Governor of New Hampshire commissioned Bartlett to be a justice of the peace, a position he was reappointed for several times. He also served as a member from Kingston in the New Hampshire legislature in that same year and was reelected, continuing to serve until Gov. John Wentworth discontinued the General Assembly in September 1775. In the 1770s, as the situation deteriorated between the American colonies and the British crown, Bartlett took on a national role. As the editor of his papers noted, Bartlett’s representing Kingston in the extralegal Provincial Congresses in 1774 and 1775 “cemented his Revolutionary connection” (Mevers 1979, xvii). He helped establish the first provincial Congress, established in the wake of the disbanding of the colonial assembly by the royal governor. In 1774 he was appointed to the Legislative Committee to examine expired laws and the Committee on Correspondence and attended the First Provincial Congress that met in Exeter, New Hampshire. He served on a committee to draft instructions to delegates to the First Continental Congress. He attended the next two Provincial Congresses, serving on several committees, including the Committee of Safety which he served on until 1784. (Mevers 1979, xxxi-xxxiii). Also in 1774, he was elected to the Continental Congress but did not immediately serve so he could remain in Kingston to oversee the rebuilding of his home that had burned in 1774.13

In September 1775, he finally left New Hampshire to attend the Continental Congress. As a member of the Continental Congress, he was the second person to sign the Declaration of Independence after John Hancock. He was appointed to Congress again in 1787 and signed the Articles of Confederation and then returned to New Hampshire to attend the 1788 New Hampshire constitutional convention that ratified the Federal Constitution.

Bartlett also had significant influence on New Hampshire’s legal and judicial system, even though he had no legal training. In 1765 he was elected to the general court. He was appointed chief justice of the court of common pleas in 1779. Four years later, in 1782, he became associate justice of the superior court, followed by serving as chief justice from 1788 to 1790.

Bartlett also served in a leadership capacity in the local militia regiment. His first commission occurred in 1770 as a lieutenant colonel of the 7th militia regiment. Though he was subsequently dismissed in February 1775, within six months he was appointed colonel of the 7th regiment. In December 1776, he mustered the regiment and prepared them to march to Rhode Island. In 1779 he resigned his appointment (Mevers 1979).

Bartlett is also known for his medical contributions. He had settled in Kingston soon after completing his medical training and quickly developed his medical practice. “He quickly won a reputation not only as a general practitioner but also as an experimenter and innovator in

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13 The 1774 Bartlett House remained in family hands until the late twentieth century. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and also as a National Historic Landmark the same year.
diagnosis and treatment” (Rettig and Snell 1971, 8:1). In addition, he was one of the founders of the New Hampshire Medical Society and its first president.

**Criterion C (area of significance: Art)**

The Plains Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Art as a characteristic rural New England burial ground that contains examples of the range of marker forms and iconography typically employed from the early eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. The setting and placement of the markers in each section illustrate not only the chronological expansion of the burying ground but also evolving burial memorialization and views of death. The gravestones, though not high style, are representative examples of popular forms, styles, and materials of funerary art of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. They also represent the work of local and regional craftsmen over a two-hundred-plus-year period. The gravestone art in the Plains Cemetery embodies the distinctive characteristics of the types, periods, and methods of construction common to eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth-century markers. The forms, materials, designs, and iconography of the stones are representative of their periods of creation and installation. They include gravestones and monuments, some cut by recognized gravestone carvers including Jonathan Hartshorne, the Mullicken family, the Lamson family, the Noyes family, John Marble, and Timothy G. Eastman, to name some, though more research is needed in this area.

The majority of markers found in the Plains Cemetery are two of the most common types used in cemeteries of similar age, notably gravestones and monuments (obelisks, pedestal monuments, and blocks), along with single examples of a box tomb and a tomb (each belonging to different generations of the Bartlett family).

By the time of the establishment of the cemetery in ca.1725, for individual gravestones, stone carvers typically used a form with a rounded top and rounded shoulders. This form remained popular into the 1760s, though beginning in the 1750s, a slightly different form came into use, remaining so for nearly one hundred years. While the rounded top was retained, the shoulders were now squared off, creating a more rectilinear form on the edges. This transition was accompanied by a change of material, from sandstone to slate. In the nineteenth century, the tablet form becomes more varied in form, with lobed tympanums, arched tops, low-pitched tops, or lancet tops, in addition to flat tops. Marble replaced slate as the preferred material and the imagery became more restrained. These types of markers comprise the greatest number in the Plains Cemetery. While the majority have no design aside from the lettering and border detailing, some do have a bas-relief design set in an oval, round, or square inset. The most common bas-relief designs include wilted roses, a sheaf of wheat, or a hand with the index finger pointing up to heaven. At the same time, with the use of monuments by the mid-nineteenth century, a variety of forms such obelisks and pedestal monuments, occasionally topped by a funerary urn, and later in the nineteenth century, block monuments, are used to memorialize burial sites. By the early twentieth century, granite became the common gravestone material. The form most frequently used consisted of a block monument with rough-cut tops (sometimes hipped) and polished faces for inscriptions for all the individuals interred in the plot. Only later in the twentieth century did the form become
thinner and more rectangular in form. All these forms have been used over time in the Plains Cemetery.

Just as the forms and materials changed over time, so too did New England gravestone iconography. Between the eighteenth and mid-twentieth century the shifts occurred in connection with changing views of death and memorialization of the deceased. In the Plains Cemetery, less than a handful of the legible markers feature the death’s head (winged skull), the earliest of the gravestone iconography employed in the colonial period and found in older cemeteries throughout New England. Instead, most of the earliest gravestone art in the Plains Cemetery features winged faces (soul effigies) which had largely replaced the death’s head by the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The soul effigy, in turn, was replaced by the urn and willow design beginning in the late eighteenth century on markers in the Plains Cemetery. It remained the popular design into the 1840s.

Gravestone Carvers

The Plains Cemetery contains some eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century gravestones that appear to be the work of several of the well-known carvers active in the Seacoast Region in that period. Many of the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century stones in the Plains Cemetery would fall under one of two regional styles identified with “schools” or “styles.” One is the Boston, Massachusetts, “school” of stone carvers. The other is a large group of carvers that make up the “Merrimac River Valley School” of gravestone carvers, generally based in Essex County, Massachusetts, and Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

The Boston school is most strongly associated with the four generations of the Lamson family of Charlestown and Malden, Massachusetts, active beginning in the late seventeenth century and continuing into the early nineteenth century. The brothers Joseph (1658-1722) and Nathaniel (1692-1755) Lamson established a number of early character-defining gravestone features. Joseph was one of the first to introduce a frame around the inscription (Tucker 1993, 172). At least four markers in the Plains Cemetery appear to be the work of the third or fourth generation of the Lamson family, notably Joseph (1728-1789), the grandson of Nathaniel, or his son Joseph Lamson (1760-1808). All are fairly similar in appearance and include the markers for Miriam Calef (1785, Center Lot 229), Mrs. Judith French (1784, Center Lot 308B), Ens. Nathaniel French, Jr. (1775, Orig. Center Lot 136A), Capt. Richard Hubbard (1782, Center Lot 148), and possibly Benjamin Ladd (1783, Center Lot 145).

The “Merrimac Valley School” is considered to have originated with Haverhill carver Lt. John Hartshorne (1650-1734), around the turn of the eighteenth century. His successors including the Mullickens (Robert and then his son Joseph) Jonathan Leighton, Moses Worster of Bradford, Jonathan Hartshorne (1703-after ca. 1776, grandson of John), and the brothers Abel and Stephen Webster of Bradford, and the Leightons of Rowley, Massachusetts, further developed and evolved the character-defining features of Hartshorne’s designs. These men were active for about 100 years, from ca. 1700 to ca. 1800. The style is noted for its distinctive geometric forms such carved circular faces with outlined features including round eyes, a linear nose, and a straight mouth. Other characteristic details include stars and coils to either side and in the shoulders and the border (Tucker 1994, 143). Apparent examples of their work in addition to the ones previously noted in Section 7 include the gravestones for Hannah
Brown (1778, Center Lot 253), Sarah Brown (1738, Center Lot 253), Joseph Busell (1735, Center Lot 268D), Sarah Busell (1735, Center Lot 268D), Abigail Clough (1777, Center Lot 268A), and Elisabeth Sanborn (1755, Center Lot 265A).

By the 1790s, the greatest number of markers that appear to be by a well-known carver are those done by the Noyes family, likely Paul Noyes (1740/41-1810), all for internments from the 1790s or early 1800s. The stones are primarily for members of five of Kingston’s more prominent families of the period including the Bartletts, the Cloughs, the Eastmans, the Frenches, and the Sanborns. The slate stones all exhibit character-defining features of Noyes work such as soul effigies with closed lids, a serene look, finely coiffed hair, and well delineated wings. Examples include the markers of Lois Bartlett (1798, Center Lot 228), Mrs. Sarah Bartlett (1793, Center Lot 178B), Mrs. Molly Calef (1790, Center Lot 229), Benjamin Clough (1792, Center Lot 316), Mary Clough (1794, Center Lot 316), Ebenezer Eastman (1799, Center Lot 281), Sarah Eastman (1794, Center Lot 281), Abigail Eastman (1798, Orig Center Lot 136A), Col. Abraham French (1800, Orig Center Lot 136A), Robert Smith French (1801, Orig Center Lot 136A), Sarah French (1806, Orig Center Lot 136A), Tristram and Hannah Sanborn (1793, 1789, Center Lot 150), Hannah Sanborn (1769, Center Lot 150), and John Sanborn (1793, Center Lot 150).

The Plains Cemetery contains the nineteenth-century work of two additional stone carvers active in the Seacoast region. At least two markers in the Plains Cemetery bear the signature of the stone cutter John Marble (1764-1844). The slate stone for Mrs. Harriet Chase (1823, Center Lot 236, 1 Contributing Object), employs the classic pattern of a weeping willow tree draped around an urn, all set within the tympanum. The stone has little additional design, aside from an incised scallop border. A slightly later example is the gravestone of Charles Chase, Jr. (1829, Center Lot 240, 1 Contributing Object), a marble or white sandstone marker. The tablet marker has a flat top and wide convex shoulders. The low relief urn and willow design is distinctive, consisting of a center funerary urn flanked by willows draped around tear-dropped shaped objects, set on the capital of a pilaster. The border has varied design. Marble had learned the stone carving from his father Joseph Marble (1726-1805), who had a shop in Bradford, Massachusetts. After working in Bradford for nearly twenty years, he left for nearly ten years, working in various places before returning to Bradford, Massachusetts, and later moving to Haverhill (Knoblock 2005, chap. 3).

The Plains Cemetery also contains several markers by Timothy G. Eastman (died 1849) of Exeter, New Hampshire, about whom relatively little is known. Examples of his work can also be found in the Chester Village Cemetery (Benton 1979, 8:1).

Overview of Kingston History relevant to broad patterns of the community’s history and culture

Early transportation routes, water-powered industries, lumbering, agriculture (including twentieth-century poultry farming), the carriage industry, shoe manufacturing, and summer tourism are common and notable themes in Kingston’s history.

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14 Much of this draws upon an earlier document prepared by Preservation Company, the “Kingston Townwide Area Form.”
Kingston and the Plains area in particular has long been part of important transportation corridors, beginning with Native Americans. The vicinity of Kingston Plains had been occupied by members of the Algonquin tribe. The area was located on the Southern Pentucket Trail used by the Indians who traveled from Pentucket (Haverhill, Massachusetts) to Massapauq (Great Pond in Kingston), and on toward Exeter (Preservation Company 2002, 17).

At the time of European settlement, what became Kingston was in the western part of the large town of Hampton, then part of Massachusetts. Originally granted in 1638, Hampton encompassed more than 100 square miles and included present-day North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, East Kingston, Danville, Sandown, and portions of Rye and Seabrook. Since most of the population initially concentrated within seven or eight miles of the coast, the Kingston area remained unsettled by Europeans until the 1690s, when a dozen or so settled in the vicinity of The Plains on the east side of Great Pond (Thomas 1981, 12; Preservation Company 2002, 17). Fertile soil, timber, and natural ponds and meadows attracted the first European settlers to the area. The relative flatness of the Plains area and its proximity to Great Pond made it a logical site for village settlement. In 1694, a group of Hampton residents petitioned the New Hampshire Governor and Council for a grant of township from unimproved lands in the western part of the town. The petition was granted in August 1694 and the new town of Kingstown was incorporated. The initial charter made Kingston not only one of the earliest towns in Rockingham County at that time but also one of the largest. As granted, it included the present-day towns of East Kingston (set off in 1738), Danville (set off in 1760), and Sandown (incorporated 1756). In 1741, the area of South Kingston was added to the town (Preservation Company 2002, 17-19). Additional adjustments to the boundaries occurred up to 1764. Around 1800 the town became commonly known as Kingston (rather than Kingstown).

Even with incorporation, European settlement prior to 1700 remained limited. Only six of the men mentioned in the town charter are known to have settled here. Instead, the original grants were sold or passed to relatives. Into the early 1700s ongoing hostilities between the European settlers and various Native American tribes deterred settlement of the area (Preservation Company 2002, 18-19). In spite of this, the town erected a meetinghouse in 1707 and hired a minister, Benjamin Choate. He left the ministry in 1721 but remained in Kingston, holding public offices and teaching school (Preservation Company 2002, 19).

In the eighteenth century, agriculture and lumbering comprised the majority of the local economy and several saw and gristmills were established on various bodies of water in the town. An early system of roads to Portsmouth and other coastal towns enabled the hauling of lumber to supply those locations. In turn, the road system generated a need for taverns, to provide accommodations, a meeting place, and food and beverages to travelers and local residents (Preservation Company 2002, 19).

In 1725, the First Congregational Church was formally organized, with Rev. Ward Clark (1703-1737) of Exeter hired as the first ordained minister. During his pastorate, 130 persons joined the church, and 471 persons were baptized (Hosier 2015, 31). In characteristic fashion, the town set aside land for a community burying ground not far from the meeting house in
Plains Village at the same time. During Ward’s tenure, he played a major role in building not only a congregation but also a Second Meetinghouse and a parsonage. The Throat distemper pandemic led to his early death at age thirty-three.

A number of Kingston’s early religious leaders have been interred in or memorialized in Plains Cemetery. Four are memorialized by the Memorial for Ministers (Ward Clark, Joseph Secomb, Amos Tappan, and Elihu Thayer), placed in the cemetery in 1850 by the Town of Kinston in honor of the first four eighteenth-century ministers with the organization of the Congregational Church in 1725. At the time of its establishment, the church had twenty-three members, and early families included the Sleepers, Beans, Sanborns, and Websters. By 1730, the town’s population included 165 adult males. In 1735, an epidemic called “throat distemper,” caused by a virulent strain of malignant diphtheria, struck the town. Though it struck other nearby towns, Kingston suffered more deaths. In a fourteen-month period, it killed 113 residents, ninety-six of them children. The epidemic finally abated in early 1739 (Preservation Company 2002, 20). Many of those killed were buried in the Plains Cemetery.

During the Revolutionary War, the Seventh Militia Regiment of New Hampshire was mustered from Kingston residents. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795) served as the regiment’s Colonel from 1777 to 1779 (Preservation Company 2002, 21). One hundred ninety-five Kingston residents served in the war and at least sixteen of them are known to be buried in the Plains Cemetery. In addition to Bartlett, men known to be buried in the cemetery include Stephen Badger (1749-1833, Center Lot 264, Capt. S. Hayes Co.), Joseph Calef (1756-1836, Center Lot 205A, Col. Enoch Poor Regt.), Benjamin Clough (1716-1792, Center Lot 316, Col. J. Frye Regt.), John Eastman (ca. 1741-1804, Center Lot 142, Col. J. Bartlett Regt.), Abraham French (1732-1800, Orig Center Lot 136A, Colonel), Benjamin Ladd (1723-1788, Center Lot 145), Jacob Peasley (1746-1833, Center Lot 295, Capt. A. French Company), Abraham Sanborn (ca. 1756-1846, Center Lot 247B, Col. J. Gales Regt.), David Sanborn (1751-1817, Center Lot 304, Capt. J. Webster Company, Pvt), Jonathan Sanborn (1739-1809, Center Lot 218, Col. A. Drake Regt.), John Blaisdell Sleeper (1752-1830, Center Lot 202, Col. A. Drake Regt.), Jonathan Sleeper (1754-1811, Center Lot 208, Capt. P. Tilton Co.), James Thorn (1754-1813, Center Lot 198, Capt. A. French Company), and Jacob Webster (1744/45-1836, Lot 221A, Capt. NH Continental Line). French was a captain of a company on Great Island, 5 November 1775. Benjamin Ladd served in Captain Sanborn’s company with General Stark at Bennington (NSDAR 1931, 99). Capt. Jacob Webster was a captain and lieutenant in the NH Continental line with service in 1775, 1776, and 1778 (NSDAR 1931, 104).

The post-Revolutionary War period and the early nineteenth century were a time of local, regional, and national growth in commerce, industry, education, and transportation. During this time, Plains Village became a commercial center. The town’s location on a Post Road that ran between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Savannah, Georgia, made it an increasingly important stopping point along the route and other routes that carried increasing stage travel throughout the state. A three-story “hotel” was constructed at the corner of Main Street and Cemetery Lane. Blacksmiths became an increasingly important craftsman locally, needed for the repair of carriages and to shoe horses.
Farming remained the dominant component of the local economy. The “Magoun Apple,” also known as Calef or Calef’s Sweet, a large roundish, yellow apple originated on the farm of Robert Calef (1772-1838) (Brown 2013).

As of 1880, with the decline of the local lumber industry due to deforestation, other industries emerged. Several individuals established tanneries, and charcoal manufacturing became an important industry, supplying the growing industrial towns in Massachusetts along the Merrimack River (Preservation Company 2002, 22-23).

Increasing religious tolerance and the “Toleration Act of 1819” disestablishing the Congregational Church contributed to the emergence of additional active denominations in Kingston, including Baptists, Universalists, and Methodists. The 1819 incorporation of the Kingston Methodist Society led to the establishment of the Kingston Academy, the first major educational institution in Kingston. Kingston resident Peter French (1788-1870), who is buried in the Plains Cemetery, bequeathed some land to the academy that was to be sold for the establishment of a fund for teachers at the Academy (Preservation Company 2002, 22-23).

The population of Kingston peaked in 1860 at 1,216, though for the next several decades it remained relatively stable averaging around 1,100. During the Civil War approximately 125 Kingston men served, beginning in 1861 with enlistment of the first regiments. In the second half of the nineteenth century, industries boomed, farmers prospered, and the continued growth and development of the village center reflected the local success.

Farming remained an important component of the local economy during the nineteenth century. At the same time, it increasingly moved from self-sufficiency farming to market farming, with crops and produce grown to supply the industrial towns and cities on either side of the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border. At the same time, in the second half of the nineteenth century, dairy farming, cattle raising, and growing hay for feed became increasingly common in Kingston.

Shoe manufacturing, always an important part of the local economy but at a small scale underwent a transformation in this period. Initially, the small shops did “outwork” for larger Haverhill shoe factories. By the 1860s, increasing numbers of residents traveled by railroad to work in the shoe factories, as those operations centralized the manufacturing process.

Carriage-making became an important principal industry in Kingston in second half of the nineteenth century. By the 1890s, Kingston was the second largest carriage manufacturer in the state. During the Civil War, carriage shops focused on building Army wagons (Preservation Company 2002, 25-27). The demise of the carriage manufacturing industry, which peaked around the turn-of-the-twentieth century, came about with the emergence of the automobile as the new means of transportation. The lumbering industry remained important to Kingston’s economy through the nineteenth century though with the reduced availability of locally sourced lumber meant the six water-powered sawmills as of 1880 had to go further afield for sources of lumber (Preservation Company 2002, 29).

In the second quarter of the twentieth century, agricultural production took a dramatic turn locally as poultry farming became a major component of Kingston’s economy. Kingston became one of the leading poultry towns in the state, producing breeding stock, baby chicks,
and hatching eggs. The town’s proximity to city markets and railroad transportation to Boston helped make production and transportation costs economical, providing easy access to a large market area. Two Kingston farmers (Andrew Christie and Frederick S. Nichols, the latter of whom is buried in the Plains Cemetery) played defining roles in the poultry industry not only locally but nationally with their development and breeding of the Red New Hampshire, a breed of chicken with high egg production (Preservation Company 2002, 33-34). The Christie and Nichols plants purchased ready to hatch eggs from the local farmers, then hatched them in large hatchery buildings. By the early 1950s, the Red New Hampshire was the largest selling type of purebred fowl in the world and about eighty percent of all reputable broiler stock raised in the United States was New Hampshire bred. The Christie and Nichols farms were two of the largest poultry producers in New England, employing 100-200 people (Preservation Company 2002, 36).

Also, in the twentieth century, with the rise of the automobile, summer tourism became a focus of the economy. The town’s many lakes and ponds attracted summer residents and vacationers. This led to the construction of summer cottages near many of the bodies of water, a State Park along Kingston Lake, and establishment of several children’s summer camps.

A second public cemetery (West Kingston Cemetery, now Pine Grove Cemetery) was established 1857 in the western part of town. A third public cemetery, Greenwood Cemetery, was laid out in 1919 with 120 lots in the northern part of town. Mill Stream Cemetery in South Kingston became a public cemetery in the early twentieth century. Also in that period, reflective of a “new” practice, town funds were established, courtesy of bequests, to provide perpetual care of the cemetery and some of the monuments in the cemeteries.

Though the town remains rural in character in many respects to the present day, in the second half of the twentieth century, farming declined, as the poultry businesses had peaked in the 1950s. Increasing numbers of residents commuted to other towns and cities for work, which continues to be the case in the twenty-first century.
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History Book Committee (Bob Pothier, Jr. and Ellen Lavoie)

Hosier, Kathleen E.
Plaines Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Hurd, D. Hamilton

Kelly, Sue and Anne Williams

Kelly, Sue and Anne Williams

Knoblock, Glenn A.

Knoblock, Glenn A.

Knoblock, Glenn A.

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Tucker, Ralph L.

Tucker, Ralph

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Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Historic Maps:
Chase, J., Jr.  

Hurd, D.H.  

Wilson, Rodney M. and Leonard F. Sanborn  

Rockingham County Registry of Deeds (RCRD)  
(http://www.nhdeeds.com/rockingham/RoHome.html)
7 Jan 1826  Book 246, Page 157  
16 Apr 1830  Book 260, Page 445  
21 May 1859  Book 385, Page 129  
18 Sep 1869  Book 431, Page 122  
1 May 1890  Book 521, Page 334  
1 Oct 1957  Book 1447, Page 293

Online Sources:

Ancestry.com Databases:
U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865.

Miscellaneous Other:
Records for Plains Cemetery, Trustees of Trust Funds, Town of Kingston  
Video of Tour of Plains Cemetery given by Glenn Knobloch, 2019, New Hampshire Humanities.

________________________________________________________

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 #__________
Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
__X Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: Town of Kingston, Trustees of Trust Funds, Cemetery Office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _______

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __ Approximately 4 acres ______

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Longitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: _________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 42.934058° N
2. Longitude: 71.052003° W
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the National Register nominated Plains Cemetery includes three pieces encompassing two parcels and the southeast corner of a third parcel where the Hearse Storage building is located. Much of the cemetery boundary contains a parcel delineated on the Town of Kingston local Assessor’s records Tax Map 9 (no lot number); the parcel’s current boundaries date to 1957, though the majority of what’s included dates to the nineteenth century. The cemetery boundary also includes a small triangular piece of land added in 1977 at the southeast corner of the main parcel. The third portion is located in the southeast corner of a parcel delineated on the Town of Kingston local Assessor’s records Tax Map 9, Lot 2 and is immediately west of and abutting the main cemetery parcel. The section included in the boundary is bounded by Cemetery Lane to the south and extends west from the main cemetery parcel to just beyond the west end of the building, and north from Cemetery Lane to just beyond the north side of the building. The Town of Kingston owns the first two parcels and the building, which is located on a separate, privately owned parcel.

The main and largest section is rectangular. On the north, it is defined by Tax Map 10, Lot 42. On the east, the cemetery boundary is defined by Tax Map 9, Lots 28, 27, 26, and 25. The south boundary is defined by Tax Map 9, Lot 19. On the west side, the boundary is defined by Tax Map 9, Lots 1, 2, and 3 and the eastern terminus of Cemetery Lane. The triangular piece, which measures approximately 132’ by 127’ by 40’, is bounded by the main cemetery section on the west, Tax Map 9, Lot 25 to the east, and Lot 19, Map 9 to the south. It was subdivided from Lot 25 in 1977.
Plains Cemetery

Name of Property

Rockingham NH

County and State

Map U-9, Town of Kingston showing boundary of eligible property

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated boundary represents the historic boundary of the majority of the Plains Cemetery which developed over time beginning with the establishment of the original cemetery in 1725, with subsequent land additions in 1859, 1869, 1890, and 1957, plus a small section added in 1977. Only the portion associated with historic hearse building is part of a separate, privately owned parcel. The town does own the building and it remains in use for cemetery maintenance purposes.

11. Form Prepared By

date: April 2021
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Plan 1978 (Copy on File with Trustees of Trust Funds)
Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

Rockingham NH
County and State

Plan with photo numbers and boundaries

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Plains Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Kingston

County: Rockingham

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Lynne Monroe

Date Photographed: September 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001
Original section, camera facing northeast [PIC_8269]

Photo 0002
Original section with French Family lot in foreground, camera facing northeast [PIC_8237]

Photo 0003
Original section with Tristram and Hannah Sanborn gravestone, camera facing east [PIC_8268]

Photo 0004
Original section with Levi S. Bartlett Tomb and Governor Josiah Bartlett and Mary Bartlett box tomb in background, camera facing east [PIC_8312]

Photo 0005
Governor Josiah Bartlett and Mary Bartlett box tomb, camera facing northeast [PIC_8331]
Plains Cemetery
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Photo 0006
Original section (foreground) and northwest corner of cemetery, camera facing northwest [PIC_8406]

Photo 0007
North Addition section, with Chase Family Lot at right mid-ground, camera facing east [PIC_8254]

Photo 0008
Ingalls-Kemp Family Monument, camera facing northeast [PIC_8286]

Photo 0009
North Addition section with Sanborn (left mid-ground) and Bassett (far right) family plots, camera facing north [PIC_8310]

Photo 0010
William F. and Mary A. Sanborn gravestone, camera facing east [PIC_8322]

Photo 0011
Gale Family Lot, camera facing east [PIC_8329]

Photo 0012
Nineteenth-cemetery marble and slate markers in original section with Colcord Family Lot in foreground, camera facing southeast [PIC_8407]

Photo 0013
Eugene A. Brown and Everett A. Brown gravestones (foreground), Major , camera facing east [PIC_8300]

Photo 0014
W.C. Patten Family Lot and Major Henry Lyman Patten Memorial in south addition section, camera facing east [PIC_8370]

Photo 0015
Oakes Family Lot, camera facing northeast [PIC_8374]
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Photo 0016
Southwest corner of south addition with Chase Family Lot in foreground, camera facing northeast [PIC_8391]

Photo 0017
Rev. W.W. and Sarah T. Wilson (mid-ground) and Major Edward S. Sanborn monument beyond in south addition, camera facing east [PIC_8395]

Photo 0018
West side of original section and south addition with landscape features, camera facing south [PIC_8230]

Photo 0019
Dorcas Hubbard gravestone, possibly carved by Jonathan Hartshorne, camera facing east [PIC_8263]

Photo 0020
Miriam Calef gravestone, likely carved by the Lamson family, camera facing east [PIC_8333]

Photo 0021
Abraham French gravestone, likely carved by Paul Noyes, camera facing east [PIC_8239]

Photo 0022
Jedediah Philbrick gravestone, camera facing east [PIC_8272]

Photo 0023
John E. Clark gravestone, camera facing east [PIC_8243]

Photo 0024
Plains Cemetery grounds building, camera facing northeast [PIC_8224]
Plains Cemetery
Name of Property

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Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
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Tier 3 – 230 hours
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