
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2006

Revised: 9/2025



North Bridge

Minute Man National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	North Bridge
Resource Classification:	Cultural Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	650045
Parent Landscape:	650045
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Minute Man National Historical Park
Alpha Code:	MIMA
Park Organization Code:	1820
Park District:	MIMA
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	No

Landscape Description:

The North Bridge Unit is one of three discontinuous park units within Minute Man National Historical Park. The Unit is located eighteen miles northwest of Boston in Concord, Massachusetts and consists of 114.01 acres. The central landscape feature is the North Bridge. On April 19, 1775, colonial militia and minutemen engaged British Regulars at the North Bridge during the “first forcible resistance” to “British aggression,” the day that marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

Historical Overview

Before seventeenth-century European settlement, Native Americans cultivated land and fished within the future town of Concord. Within the present-day North Bridge Unit, Native Americans camped on the hilltop overlooking the Concord River, and are believed to have gathered food in wet meadows bordering the river and grown crops in a field partially located within the Unit.

English Puritans established Concord in 1635. Land within the present-day North Bridge Unit, north of the town center, was among the first settled in Concord. The Puritans built houses within the Unit on a ridgeline bordering the western bank of the Concord River. By the mid-1650s, although probably much earlier, settlers within the Unit constructed a bridge (North Bridge) across the river, connecting their houses to the center of town. Colonial houses included a house, a barn, and other outbuildings, and often small fields, meadows, orchards, and woodlands. Larger fields, pastures, and wet meadows held in common were located throughout the town.

By 1775, all land within the North Bridge Unit was settled and cleared for agriculture. Seven houses were located within the Unit, five on the ridgeline west of the river and two on level ground east of the river. Defining spaces within the landscape were stone walls, fences, farm lanes and the Groton Road, which crossed the Concord River over the North Bridge. On the morning of April 19, 1775, the agricultural landscape became a battleground. British troops arrived in Concord early in the morning, not to engage in battle but to find and destroy colonial arms. Colonial minutemen and militia gathered on the hilltop west of the North Bridge, today known as the Muster Field. Observing smoke rising from the center of Concord, they feared the British would destroy the town. Standing between the colonials and town center were several British companies guarding the bridge. As the minutemen and militia

approached, British troops positioned on the opposite side of the river fired, killing two colonials. The colonials returned fire, killing one British soldier and mortally wounding two others. The entire battle lasted only minutes. Outnumbered and unable to hold their position, British soldiers broke ranks and retreated towards the center of town.

Two of the dead British soldiers were buried in the field bordering the south side of Groton Road (Old Manse field), east of the North Bridge. Except for the graves, the battle appears to have minimally altered the battleground landscape. Thirteen years after the battle, the town replaced the North Bridge with a new structure, as had happened routinely about every twenty years since the original bridge was constructed in the seventeenth century. In 1793, the town removed the North Bridge and discontinued the portion of Groton Road crossing over the bridge, following construction of a new bridge further downstream.

About fifty years after the battle at the North Bridge, Concord began to formally celebrate the anniversary of the battle. The first known public remembrance occurred in 1824, with a significantly larger celebration held in 1825, the fiftieth anniversary of the battle. In 1836, the town erected the Battle Monument on land donated to the town. The property included the portion of Groton Road that ran between present-day Monument Street and the Concord River, closed to public travel in 1793 after the removal of the North Bridge. It also included the portion of the field under which the two British soldiers were buried. The monument was placed at the western end of the linear parcel, on the east bank of the Concord River near the site of the North Bridge. In 1838, the town planted about two hundred trees in double rows along the northern and southern edges of the donated land.

The 1874 commemorative North Bridge and The Minute Man were constructed and erected in time for the centennial celebration in 1875. Ebenezer Hubbard, a local citizen, initiated construction of both features because he was displeased with the location of the Battle Monument, erected on the site of the British position during the battle at the North Bridge.

A local citizen, Ebenezer Hubbard, displeased with the location of the Battle Monument, erected on the site of the British position during the battle at the North Bridge, initiated construction of both features. Through his will and an earlier donation, Hubbard provided funds to construct a bridge accessing the western bank of the river so that a monument placed on the site where colonials fought and died could easily be reached. Also placed in time for the celebration was a granite marker inscribed "Grave of the British Soldiers" and inset in a stone wall overlooking the gravesite. Concord erected several more monuments in the decades that followed including the Muster Field Monument (1885) and the John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument (1915). Both were placed within stone walls along Liberty Street.

Beginning in 1879, descendants of colonials who fought during the battle at the North Bridge transformed a significant portion of the agricultural landscape overlooking the battleground into suburban country estates. The estates, known as the Battle Lawn estate and the Buttrick estate, sat high above the Concord River. Both estates included a large house, a carriage house or stable, a cottage, and formal entrances, gardens, and landscaping.

The battleground increasingly became a tourist destination, especially during anniversary celebrations, on patriotic holidays, and during summer weekends. Carriages, and later automobiles, were allowed to cross the North Bridge and to park adjacent to the monuments. By 1911, a small tourist stand owned and operated by a neighboring property owner stood near the Battle Monument. In 1927, automobiles were no longer allowed to drive along the avenue leading to the North Bridge. Two years later, the town built the Monument Street parking lot, opposite the battleground entrance.

Most of the land within the North Bridge Unit remained agricultural through the nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, except for the commemorative landscape associated with the North Bridge and the formal landscapes and gardens of the Battle Lawn and Buttrick estates. Although a few fields and wet meadows had reverted to forest by the early 1940s, most land remained open through the middle of the twentieth century.

In 1956, the federal government formed the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to investigate a partnership between the federal government and state and local organizations to preserve significant colonial and American Revolutionary properties in and around Boston. The commission recommended the establishment of a national park that would include over a hundred acres surrounding the North Bridge in Concord (North Bridge Unit) and over four miles along the historic battle route between Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington (Battle Road Unit). On September 21, 1959, the federal government established Minute Man National Historical Park, and in 1960 the park officially opened.

Land acquisition within the North Bridge Unit began in 1962 with the purchase of the Buttrick estate, the Battle Lawn estate, Flint field, and Honeysuckle Island from the Buttrick family. In 1963, the NPS entered into a cooperative agreement with the town of Concord. The agreement allowed the town to retain title to the Monument Street parking lot and the commemorative landscape adjacent to the 1956 commemorative North Bridge and charged the federal government with the responsibility of operating and maintaining the landscape.

Early research efforts within the North Bridge Unit concentrated on buildings and archeological sites significant to the battle at the North Bridge. Reports generated include historic structure reports for the Elisha Jones house and the Major John Buttrick house. Archeological studies investigated the location of Groton Road west of the North Bridge and uncovered the foundations of the Ephraim and Willard Buttrick house and the Captain David Brown house. The most comprehensive study of the battleground landscape is included within the 1985 historic grounds report "The Scene of the Battle." Recent research includes an historic structures report for the North Bridge and a Cultural Landscape Report for the North Bridge Unit, both completed in 2004.

Significance Summary

Minute Man National Historical Park was systematically listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. On November 29, 2002 the National Register of Historic Places accepted documentation for Minute Man National Historical Park. The period of significance is listed as 1655 to 1959. The documentation identifies the park as nationally significant in the areas of military, commemoration, and literature and locally significant in the areas of agriculture, archeology, and architecture. Based on findings of the CLI, the landscape is also locally significant in the area of landscape architecture, recognizing the significance of the Buttrick estate designed landscape.

Analysis and Evaluation Statement

The analysis and evaluation section evaluates the landscape's physical integrity by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance with current conditions. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing, non-contributing, or undetermined to the landscape's overall historic significance. For those features that are listed as undetermined further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's original date. Contributing characteristics or features were either present during the period of significance or are in-kind replacements of such historic elements. Landscape characteristics identified for the North Bridge Unit are spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Extant landscape features associated with these characteristics date from the time of puritan settlement to recent landscape changes associated with a NPS line-item construction project. These include features present at the time of the battle (site topography, houses, and archeological sites); agricultural features (open fields, wet meadows, fruit trees, roads, stone walls, houses, and barn foundations); and commemorative landscape features (monuments, commemorative North Bridge, allée, stone walls, and iron fencing).

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

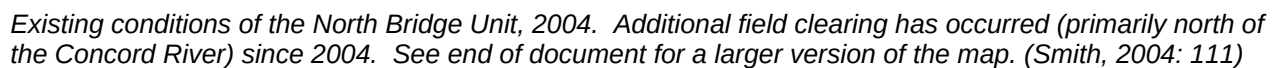
North Bridge is one of three cultural landscapes located in Minute Man National Historical Park. The others include the Battle Road and the Wayside.

Landscape Type:

- Historic Site
- Historic Vernacular Landscape
- Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	North Bridge Unit	Other Name Type:	Current
Other Name:	North Bridge battleground	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Muster Field	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Battle Lawn	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	North Bridge Visitor Center	Other Name Type:	Current



Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/22/2006

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
North Bridge Unit
Minute Man National Historical Park

Minute Man National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the North Bridge Unit including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the North Bridge Unit is hereby approved and accepted.

 8/22/06
Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, August 22, 2006.

North Bridge
Minute Man National Historical Park

SEP-18-2012 01:48P FROM:MIMA NHP CRC

1 978 318 7840

TO:816172235172

P.6

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2012**

Minute Man National Historical Park
North Bridge

Minute Man National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessment for North Bridge, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessment for North Bridge at Minute Man National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park

9.18.12

Date

Condition reassessment form, September 18, 2012.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025**

Minute Man National Historical Park

Battle Road, Brooks Farm, Fiske Hill, Hartwell Area, Jones-Stow Farm,
Meriam's Corner, Nelson Farm Area, North Bridge, The Wayside

Minute Man National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for Battle Road, Brooks Farm, Fiske Hill, Hartwell Area, Jones-Stow Farm, Meriam's Corner, Nelson Farm Area, North Bridge, The Wayside, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Good – Battle Road
Good – Brooks Farm
Good – Fiske Hill
Good – Hartwell Area
Good – Jones-Stow Farm
Good – Meriam's Corner
Good – Nelson Farm Area
Good – North Bridge
Fair – The Wayside

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI updates for the sites listed above at Minute Man National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

SIMONE MONTELEONE	Digitally signed by SIMONE MONTELEONE
Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park	Date: 2025.09.16 13:43:07 -04'00'
	Date

Park concurrence form, September 16, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	09/18/2012	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	09/16/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the North Bridge CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:**State****County****Size (Acres):** 114.01**Land Tract Number(s)**

05-101, 05-102, 05-103, 05-112

Boundary Description:

The North Bridge Unit is located within the suburban town of Concord Massachusetts, eighteen miles west of Boston. Historic and contemporary residences border the Unit to the northeast and east; Lowell Road to the southwest, and secondary forest to the south.

The Unit includes 114.01 acres and consists of 15 tracts. The federal government owns ten tracts (05-101, 05-103, 05-113, 05-120, 05-121, 05-122, 05-123, 05-124, 05-125, 05-126) totaling 86.45 acres, which includes the Muster Field and the Buttrick estate landscape. The town of Concord owns three parcels (05-130, 05-131, 05-112), which include the commemorative landscape and portions of Monument and Liberty Streets. The State of Massachusetts owns the Concord River (05-138) and the Trustees of Reservations own the Old Manse property (05-102). The National Park Service manages the federal tracts, and under a cooperative agreement with the town of Concord maintains the 6.61-acre commemorative landscape and Monument Street parking lot owned by the town. The Trustees of Reservations manage and maintain the Old Manse property.

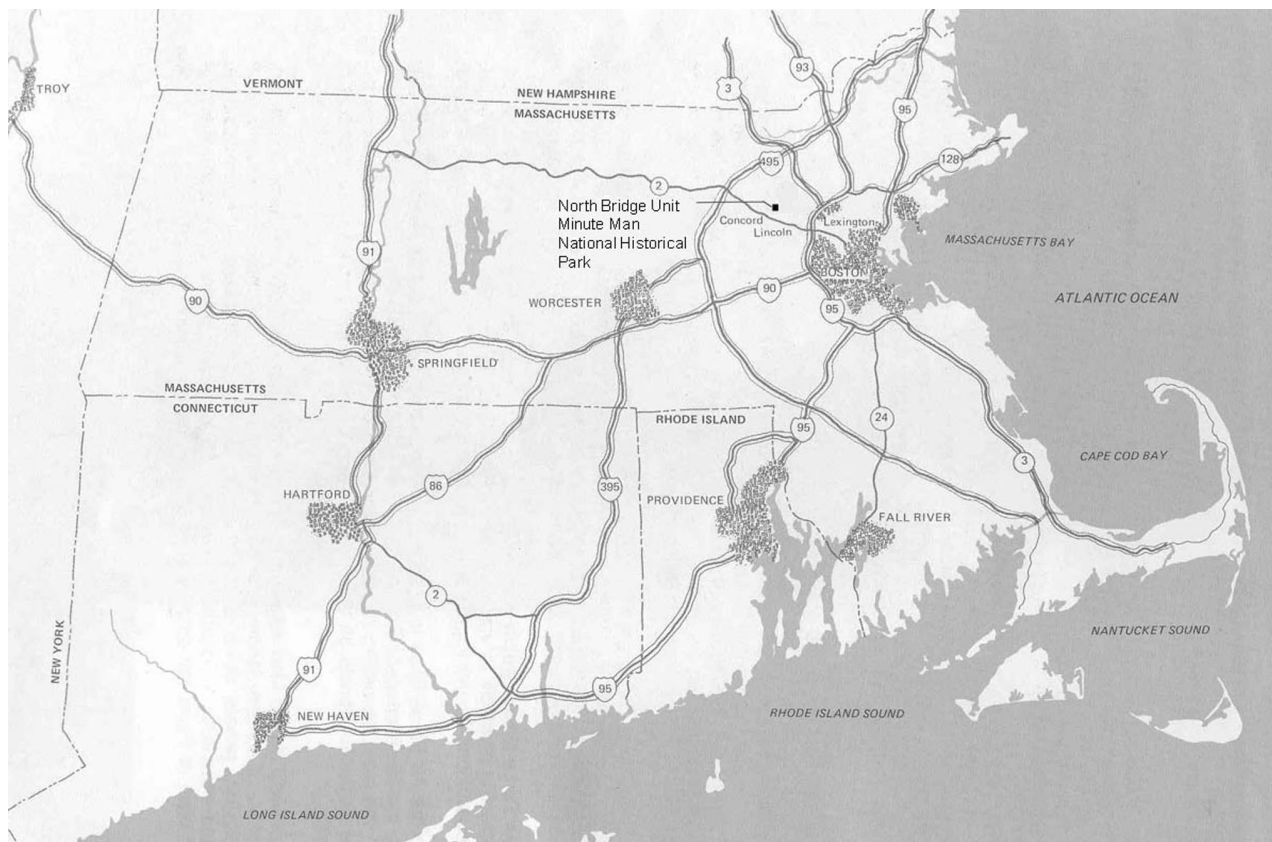
The Unit includes flat terrain and hilltops rising 26 to 85 feet above the Concord River. Low, flat land borders most of the Concord River, especially to the south. The flat terrain generally floods each spring. The highest point is the summit of Poplar Hill, rising 205 feet above sea level. The steepest slopes are located east of the Stedman Buttrick house (32%) and along the east side of Poplar Hill (45%).

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.3465190679836	42.4704517822798	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.3429411966165	42.4658422829557	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.354926062456	42.4610939116929	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.3587543405348	42.4658779861995	
USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	-71.3548516032504	42.4720818455775	

North Bridge
Minute Man National Historical Park

Location Map:



The North Bridge Unit of Minute Man National Historical Park is located eighteen miles west of Boston in Concord, Massachusetts.

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/22/2006

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Although not clearly defined as rehabilitation in the 1989 General Management Plan (GMP), the actions and recommendations included in the GMP are consistent with NPS's current definition of rehabilitation.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Type of Agreement: Lease

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Minute Man National Historical Park was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. On November 29, 2002 the National Register of Historic Places accepted documentation for Minute Man National Historical Park. On December 2, 2002 the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places accepted a Supplementary Listing Record for the park. The Supplementary Listing Record corrected a serious error in the November 29, 2002 documentation. On October 25, 2006 the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places accepted a second Supplementary Listing Record for the park that corrected additional mistakes in the November 29, 2002 documentation and provided more accurate feature names and construction dates for some of the park's resources, based on cultural landscape and historic structures reports completed since 2002.

Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 10/25/2006

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Minute Man National Historical Park is nationally significant in the areas of military, commemoration, and literature. The park was established in 1959 because of its significance as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution. Extant features within the North Bridge Unit that contribute to the significance of the 1775 battleground include three colonial houses, several stone foundations, and almost one hundred acres of former agricultural land. In the area of commemoration, the park is nationally significant as one of the earliest battlegrounds recognized as hallowed ground. Extant features within the unit that contribute to the significance of the commemorative landscape (1836-1959) include the allée, the 1956 commemorative North Bridge, and six monuments and markers. The Old Manse, home to Nathaniel Hawthorn from 1842-1845, is nationally significant in the area of literature. The property is located within the bounds of the North Bridge Unit but is owned and operated by the Trustees of Reservations.

The park is locally significant in the areas of agriculture, archeology, and architecture. From 1635 to the late 1800s, agricultural fields, pastures, and meadows dominated the landscape. Extant features that contribute to the significance of the agricultural landscape (1635-1949) include open fields, houses, archeological sites, stone walls, tree-lined roads, and remnant orchards. Archeological sites dating from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries include house and barn foundations, and remnants of the Groton Road, west of the North Bridge. Architectural features of local significance include eight residences and support structures dating from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Based on findings of the CLI, the landscape is also locally significant in the area of landscape architecture, recognizing the significance of the Buttrick estate designed landscape.

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criteria A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criteria C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criteria D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

Consideration B -- A building or structure removed from its original location

Consideration F -- A commemorative property

Consideration G -- A property less than 50 years of age

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1635 - CE 1959

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	The Farmer's Frontier	Farming the Northeast	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Colonial (1600-1730)	Period Revivals
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Colonial Revival Landscape Design	
Expressing Cultural Values	Literature	Fiction	
Peopling Places	Post-Archaic and Prehistoric Developments	Eastern Farmers	Hunters and Gathers
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	War in the North	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Agriculture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Literature

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: Minute Man National Historical Park

NRIS ID: 66000935

Primary Certification Date: 10/15/1966

Other Certifications and Date: MM/dd/yyyy

NRIS Name: Minute Man National Historical Park

NRIS ID: 66000935

Primary Certification Date: 10/15/1966

Other Certifications and Date: MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1635	Established	Puritans establish the Concord plantation on the Musketequid River, known today as the Concord River.
CE 1636	Land Transfer	By 1636, Concord begins distributing land within the present-day North Bridge Unit among the Puritan settlers.
CE 1654	Built	By 1654, Concord constructs a simple wooden bridge across the Concord River within the present-day North Bridge Unit. The bridge would become known as the North Bridge.
CE 1654	Built	A one-rod (16 ½') wide causeway is built west from the North Bridge about four hundred feet through a swamp, probably the same time the bridge was constructed. The causeway is part of a farm road crossing the bridge.
CE 1660	Inhabited	Nine families live along both sides of the Concord River within the present-day North Bridge Unit.
CE 1660 - 1730	Reconstructed	Weather, spring floods, and decay necessitated continuous maintenance and reconstruction of the North Bridge every twenty to thirty years. Although records do not specify reconstruction, the bridge was probably rebuilt twice during this period.
CE 1660	Reconstructed	The North Bridge is reconstructed c. 1660.
CE 1699	Established	Concord formally lays out existing farm roads and paths on the western side of the North Bridge as public ways. The farm road crossing the bridge is known as Groton Road. It is one of Concord's most important roads during the colonial period.
CE 1731	Reconstructed	The North Bridge is reconstructed.
CE 1750 - 1753	Built	A new six hundred-foot by forty-foot wide causeway is constructed on land purchased by the town from Captain Jonathan Buttrick at the western end of the North Bridge. The town also constructs a stone wall between the causeway the Buttrick farm.
CE 1770	Reconstructed	The town of Concord reconstructs the North Bridge and the wall bordering the causeway on the west side of the bridge.
CE 1770	Removed	By 1700, Concord landowners had cleared thirty percent of the town's forests for agricultural fields and pastures.
CE 1775	Military Operation	On April 19, 1775, colonial militia and minute men battle British Regulars at the North Bridge. Although the battle lasts only minutes, it sparked the beginning of the American Revolution.
CE 1775	Memorialized	Two small stones are believed to have been placed over the grave of two British Soldiers who died during the battle of the North Bridge soon after the battle. The grave is located in William Emerson's pasture, adjacent to the western edge of Groton Road.
CE 1788	Reconstructed	The North Bridge, which stood during the battle, is replaced.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1792	Built	The town of Concord constructs a new bridge across the Concord River, west of the North Bridge. Known as the Red Bridge, (later as Hunt's Bridge) the bridge is located along the western edge of the present-day North Bridge Unit where Lowell Road crosses the river.
CE 1793	Built	The town constructs a new bridge across the Concord River, east of the North Bridge. The new bridge, known as Flint's Bridge, replaces the use of the North Bridge. The bridge is located along the eastern edge of the present-day North Bridge Unit, where Monument Street crosses the river.
CE 1793	Demolished	The town authorizes Lieutenant Elisha Jones to remove the North Bridge. It would be over eighty years before a new bridge would be constructed at this site.
CE 1793	Land Transfer	Land within the abandoned section of Groton Road west of the North Bridge reverts to private ownership. The town authorizes landowners on the western side of the Concord River to reroute abandoned sections of Groton Road. The rerouted road coincides with present-day Liberty Street, which runs between present-day Lowell and Monument Streets.
CE 1824	Memorialized	The first significant anniversary celebration for the 1775 battle at the North Bridge takes place in Concord on April 19, 1824. A portion of the event occurs at the site of the North Bridge.
CE 1825	Memorialized	The fiftieth anniversary celebration of the 1775 battle at the North Bridge takes place in Concord on April 19, 1825. A portion of the event occurs at the site of the North Bridge. The town would host a large anniversary celebration every twenty-five years, and smaller celebrations in the years between.
CE 1835	Land Transfer	Reverend Ezra Ripley donates a small parcel of land to the town of Concord for the placement of a monument commemorating the battle at the North Bridge. The donated land includes the abandoned section of Groton Road between the site of the North Bridge and Monument Street, and the gravesite of two British soldiers killed during the battle.
CE 1836	Memorialized	Concord erects a monument honoring the battle at the North Bridge on the land donated by Reverend Ezra Ripley. The Battle Monument is located at the eastern end of the parcel adjacent to the bridge site on land occupied by British Regulars during the battle.
CE 1836	Land Transfer	Reverend Ezra Ripley donates a second small parcel of land that abuts the land he donated in 1835. Together, the two parcels measure 40 feet wide at Monument Street and 84 feet wide at the Concord River high water mark.
CE 1837	Built	By 1837, the town installed an iron fence around the base of the Battle Monument and constructed a stone wall along the southern edge of the parcel donated to the town by Reverend Ezra Ripley.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1838	Planted	Two hundred tree saplings are planted in double rows along the northern and southern edges of the land donated by Reverend Ezra Ripley. The trees form an avenue leading to the Battle Monument. Species include elm, sycamore, maple, oak, larch, fir, pine, ash, hickory, and hornbeam.
CE 1845 - 1847	Planted	The town hires several individuals to plant trees along the avenue leading to the Battle Monument. The price paid to replant the trees indicates a significant number of trees did not survive from the original 1838 tree planting.
CE 1845 - 1846	Built	The town of Concord installs an iron gate with four stone pillars at the entrance to the avenue leading to the Battle Monument. The new gate replaces an earlier locked gate of unknown material.
CE 1850	Memorialized	Concord and Lexington hold a joint celebration for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening day of the American Revolution. A portion of the event occurred at the site of the North Bridge.
CE 1850 - 1851	Removed	The town sells a portion of a stone wall along the north side of the avenue leading to the Battle Monument.
CE 1851 - 1852	Planted	The town plants a buckthorn hedge along the northern edge of the avenue leading to the Battle Monument in the same location as the stone wall removed the previous year.
CE 1851	Built	The town constructs a wire fence along the edge of the buckthorn hedge.
CE 1869 - 1870	Planned	Concord's superintendent of public grounds recommends covering the grassy surface of the avenue leading to the Battle Monument with hard gravel.
CE 1874	Built	A rustic-style commemorative North Bridge designed by Boston Architect William R. Emerson is constructed on the site of the historic North Bridge.
CE 1875	Land Transfer	The heirs of Stedman Buttrick transfer a quarter-acre parcel at the western end of the 1874 commemorative North Bridge as a location for a proposed monument commemorating the battle at the North Bridge.
CE 1875	Memorialized	The one hundredth anniversary celebration of the 1775 battle at the North Bridge takes place in Concord on April 19, 1875. A portion of the event occurs at the site of the North Bridge and in the fields west of the bridge.
CE 1875	Graded	Approximately six feet of earthen fill is placed on top of the quarter-acre parcel, to protect the proposed monument from seasonal flooding.
CE 1875	Planted	Turf is planted along the sides and a willow hedge along the perimeter of the newly graded quarter-acre parcel to inhibit erosion.
CE 1875	Built	By 1875, the town covers the grassy surface of the avenue leading to the Battle Monument with gravel, as recommended by the superintendent of public grounds.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1875	Memorialized	Local sculpture Daniel C. French (who later designs the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.) designs the new monument. The statue, named "The Minute Man" by French, is placed on the quarter-acre parcel in time for the one hundredth anniversary of the battle at the North Bridge.
CE 1875	Memorialized	The town installs a monument in the stone wall adjacent to the grave of the British soldiers, formally marking the site. The two small stones, believed to have been placed at the gravesite soon after the battle, remain in place.
CE 1875	Moved	The town installs a fence around the western edge of the donated parcel, c. 1875 (after the one hundredth anniversary celebration). The fence includes sections of iron fence removed from the base of the Battle Monument and from the entrance to the avenue leading to the Battle Monument (hereafter known as the avenue leading to the North Bridge).
CE 1877	Purchased/Sold	Laura E. Emerson purchases property from George and Mary Keyes. The property includes a portion of the field where colonial militia and minute men mustered on April 19, 1775, before confronting British Regulars at the North Bridge.
CE 1877	Built	A granite post and iron chain fence is placed around the Grave and Monument of the British Soldiers.
CE 1879 - 1883	Built	Edwin Barrett builds a mansion, gardener's cottage, stable, and a small "gazebo-like" structure on his "Battle Lawn" estate, c. 1879-1883.
CE 1879 - 1883	Planted	Edwin Barrett landscapes the upper portion of his estate along Liberty Street, c. 1879-1883. Plantings include a groomed lawn, ornamental shrubs, and specimen trees. The lower portion of the estate is planted in hay.
CE 1879 - 1883	Graded	Edwin Barrett alters site topography to accommodate construction of buildings and a private drive on the property purchased by his fiancée Laura E. Emerson in 1877.
CE 1879 - 1883	Memorialized	Edwin Barrett places a memorial marker on his property c. 1879-1883, honoring contributions of his ancestors Colonel James Barrett and Captain Nathan Brown during the battle at the North Bridge.
CE 1881 - 1883	Maintained	The town of Concord re-grades the quarter-acre landform under The Minute Man.
CE 1882	Built	Edwin Barrett builds a gardener's cottage on his estate. He also builds (about the same time) a stable and a small "gazebo-like" structure.
CE 1883	Built	The town of Concord installs a water fountain along the avenue leading to the North Bridge, c. 1883.
CE 1883 - 1884	Maintained	The town of Concord places additional gravel on the avenue leading to the North Bridge.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1885	Memorialized	The town of Concord places the Muster Field Monument in a stone wall along Liberty Street. The monument marks the location colonial militia and minute men mustered on April 19, 1775 before confronting British Regulars at the North Bridge.
CE 1888	Destroyed	A spring freshet destroys the 1874 commemorative North Bridge.
CE 1889	Built	The town of Concord constructs new commemorative North Bridge at the site of historic North Bridge. The 1889 commemorative North Bridge is constructed of heavy oak timbers, better equipped to withstand rising water levels the rustic-style 1874 commemorative North Bridge.
CE 1892 - 1893	Reconstructed	The town of Concord replaces the wire fence along the northern edge of the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1909	Altered	The town of Concord installs concrete curbing around the circular bases of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man, squaring the sides.
CE 1909	Built	The town of Concord constructs a new commemorative North Bridge at the site of the historic North Bridge. Discouraged at the lifespan of the previous two commemorative bridges, the 1909 commemorative bridge is constructed of concrete.
CE 1909	Purchased/Sold	Edward A. Newell purchases the Battle Lawn estate.
CE 1909	Altered	Newell extensively enlarges and remodels the Battle Lawn mansion under the direction of Boston Architect Frank Chouteau Brown, c. 1909. Sometime after Newell's occupancy, the monument erected by Barrett is removed.
CE 1909	Destroyed	Spring flooding destroys the 1889 commemorative North Bridge.
CE 1910 - 1911	Maintained	The town of Concord places additional gravel on the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1910	Planned	Stedman Buttrick II hires Boston Architect James Purdon to layout an estate on the Buttrick farm and to design a house. Purdon prepares the plans c. 1910.
CE 1910	Built	Stedman Buttrick II builds a caretaker's cottage and carriage house on his estate.
CE 1910	Memorialized	A slate slab engraved with the text from James Russell Lowell's poem "Lines" is placed on the stone wall bordering the grave of the British soldiers, replacing the monument erected in 1875.
CE 1910	Land Transfer	Stedman Buttrick II becomes the sole owner of the Buttrick farm on the north side of the Concord River. The same year Buttrick purchases a parcel along Liberty Street from Mary E. Davis (Flint's Field) and a parcel along Monument Street (Honeysuckle Island).
CE 1911	Planned	Charles H. Wheeler of Framington Massachusetts creates a planting plan for the Buttrick estate. Features depicted on the plan include a rectangular flower garden, an orchard, and a tennis court – all of which are known to have been constructed.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1911 - 1913	Built	The house designed by Architect James Purdon is constructed for Stedman Buttrick II on top of Buttrick Hill, overlooking the battleground, near a nineteenth-century house built by Stedman Buttrick I.
CE 1913	Moved	After construction of Stedman Buttrick II's house, the house built by Stedman Buttrick I is moved to Monument Street.
CE 1915	Memorialized	Daniel Chester French, the artist who designed The Minute Man, designs the John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument. The granite monument is placed within a stone wall on the south side of Liberty Street owned by Stedman Buttrick II.
CE 1915	Planted	Under the direction of Landscape Architect Philip Homer Elwood, Jr., the town of Concord plants four cedars at the base of the Battle Monument, one in each corner. The town also plants pine trees at the eastern end of the bridge.
CE 1916	Planted	The town of Concord plants shrubs around the Battle Monument and in back of The Minute Man.
CE 1923	Platted	Boston Landscape Architect Harold Hill Blossom prepares a topographical plan for the Buttrick estate. The plan depicts several items not included on Charles H. Wheeler's 1911 planting plan including a circular garden and stairs leading down the east slope of Buttrick Hill.
CE 1923	Planned	Harold Hill Blossom creates a preliminary garden plan that includes a flagstone path connecting the Buttrick estate's rectangular garden, circular garden, and stairs leading down the east slope of Buttrick Hill. He also re-configured the flower beds in the circular garden.
CE 1924	Planned	Landscape Architect Arthur Shurtleff prepares a plan for a memorial highway for The Commission on the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the American Revolution. The proposed memorial highway extends to the avenue leading to the North Bridge. The plan is never implemented.
CE 1924	Established	Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox appoints a commission to recommend a state program for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the opening day of the American Revolution.
CE 1925	Memorialized	The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of the 1775 battle at the North Bridge takes place in Concord on April 19, 1925. A portion of the event occurs at the site of the North Bridge and in the fields west of the bridge.
CE 1925	Planned	Harold Hill Blossom creates a detailed perennial planting plan for the Buttrick estate circular garden. Stedman Buttrick II dies the same year; it is not known if Blossom's perennial planting plan is ever implemented.
CE 1925	Memorialized	The town of Concord places a large sign on the north side of the eastern abutment of the 1909 commemorative North Bridge. The sign, titled "Concord Fight," included a narrative written by local historian Allen French.
CE 1926	Moved	The Battle Lawn gardener's cottage is relocated to Lang Street in Concord.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1926	Purchased/Sold	Stedman Buttrick III purchases the Battle Lawn estate and incorporates the property within the Buttrick estate. The Battle Lawn mansion is renamed "Overlea" and is occupied by Buttrick's aunt Mary Buttrick Hoar until 1952.
CE 1928	Altered	The town of Concord re-grades portions of the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1928	Altered	The town of Concord prohibits automobiles from entering the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1929	Established	The Old North Bridge Association is formed to protect the avenue leading to the commemorative North Bridge and to provide comfort and site interpretation to visitors.
CE 1929	Land Transfer	The Massachusetts General Court authorizes Concord to take by eminent domain or other measures land necessary to accomplish goals set by the Old North Bridge Association. Included is a triangular parcel across from the entrance to the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1929	Built	The town of Concord constructs the Monument Street parking lot in the triangular parcel across from the entrance to the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1930	Altered	The town of Concord constructs an additional entrance into the Monument Street parking lot and erects granite posts at all three parking lot entrances. A drinking fountain is also installed.
CE 1930	Planted	The town of Concord plants trees and shrubs along the north and south sides of the Monument Street parking lot. They also plant two rows of hemlocks and two rows of maples within the alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1931 - 1932	Planted	The town of Concord replaces several hemlock trees planted in 1930 within the alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1936	Planted	The town of Concord plants hemlocks and white pine trees to replace hemlocks planted between 1930 and 1932 within the alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge, nearly all of which had died by 1936.
CE 1936	Planted	By the mid-1930s, Stedman Buttrick III has propagated about two hundred varieties of iris within his estate gardens.
CE 1936	Established	The U.S. Congress authorizes and directs the National Park Service (NPS) to complete a comprehensive study of park, parkway, and recreational area programs within the United States in cooperation with local governments.
CE 1939	Purchased/Sold	The Trustees of Reservations purchase the Old Manse property from Sarah Ripley, a descendent of Reverend Ezra Ripley. The Old Manse stood at the time of the Battle at the North Bridge and was also the temporary home of American author Nathaniel Hawthorn in the 1840s.
CE 1940	Built	In the early 1940s, Stedman Buttrick III constructs a grass tennis court north of the Stedman Buttrick house. The original clay tennis court built in the 1920s is removed.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1940	Built	In the 1940s, Stedman Buttrick III constructs additional estate gardens, including a linear terraced walkway leading down the east slope of Buttrick Hill, additional terraced walkways down the hill, a rock garden, and a linear garden leading from the Stedman Buttrick house to the Overlea (Battle Lawn) mansion.
CE 1940	Planted	In addition to iris, ornamental species planted in the Buttrick estate gardens by the 1940s include azaleas, rhododendrons, peonies, and specimen evergreen shrubs.
CE 1940	Built	By the early 1940s, a small house is built just west of the Major John Buttrick House for Mary Brooks Buttrick's chauffeur/handyman. Mary Brooks Buttrick lived in the Major John Buttrick House. She was Stedman Buttrick's second wife.
CE 1941	Planned	The Massachusetts State Planning Board and the NPS submit a report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as specified by the U.S. Congress in 1936. The plan includes federal acquisition and development of three areas, including the "Concord Battle Ground."
CE 1949	Built	In c. 1949, Stedman Buttrick III constructs a small rectangular swimming pool, just west of the rectangular and circular gardens.
CE 1950	Established	By the 1950s, the Buttrick estate is nationally known for its extensive iris collection. In 1959, the estate gardens are featured in the National Geographic Magazine.
CE 1951	Altered	The town of Concord re-grades the entire landscape between Monument Street and the bridge, and covers the avenue leading to the North Bridge with stone dust.
CE 1951	Planted	The town of Concord spreads loam and grass seed under the alleé, including within the foot paths on both sides of the avenue leading to the North Bridge.
CE 1951	Planted	The town of Concord plants eleven new trees within the alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge. Tree species include larch, oak, red pine, and white pine.
CE 1951	Built	The town of Concord builds a public toilet adjoining the northern boundary of the Monument Street parking lot.
CE 1953	Demolished	Stedman Buttrick III demolishes the Overlea (Battle Lawn) mansion.
CE 1953	Altered	The paths covered with grass seed in 1951 re-appear by 1953, the result of undirected foot traffic. The town re-seeds the paths and blocked the path entrances with a pair of granite posts connected by chain to prohibit re-establishment of the paths.
CE 1955	Established	The federal government creates the Boston National Historic Sites Commission (BNHSC) to study the feasibility of establishing a coordinated program between the federal government and local and state organizations to preserve Boston area colonial and revolutionary sites.
CE 1955	Damaged	Flood waters severely damage the 1909 commemorative North Bridge.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1955	Memorialized	The town of Concord erects the Concord Fight Marker to replace the wooden "Concord Fight" sign erected in 1925. The marker includes a bronze tablet mounted on an uncut granite boulder, bearing the same narrative that appeared on the "Concord Fight" sign.
CE 1956	Planned	The NPS completes preliminary sketches of a proposed national park located along the "Lexington-Concord Battleroad." The proposed park includes about 220 acres within the present-day North Bridge Unit.
CE 1956	Built	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts constructs the 1956 commemorative North Bridge with funds allocated by the federal government for New England disaster relief. The bridge is constructed using pressure treated timbers.
CE 1956	Established	The town of Concord establishes the Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments to study problems related to the care and maintenance of the town's parks and historic monuments, including the North Bridge battleground.
CE 1958	Planned	Landscape Architect Dorothea Harrison works with the Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments to create a plan for improvements at the North Bridge battleground.
CE 1958	Planned	The Boston National Historic Sites Commission submits an interim report to Congress, recommending the establishment of a national park along the "Lexington-Concord Battleroad," to be known as Minute Man.
CE 1958	Altered	Under the direction of Landscape Architect Dorothea Harrison, the town of Concord replaces the concrete curbing (installed in 1909) at the base of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man with granite curbing.
CE 1958	Built	In addition to granite curbing, the town installs granite stairs at the base of the Battle Monument and granite slabs at the base of The Minute Man, to minimize erosion caused by visitors stepping on the earthen mound under the monuments while have their pictures taken.
CE 1958	Built	The Concord Highway Department installs a granite threshold at the entrance of a path leading to the Old Manse from the avenue leading to the North Bridge, within an opening in the stone wall constructed along the southern edge of the allée c. 1837.
CE 1959	Planned	Under the direction of Landscape Architect Dorothea Harrison, the town plants several ornamental shrubs, including Japanese barberry, yellow twigged dogwood, and multiflora rose, near The Minute Man.
CE 1959	Established	Public Law 86-321 establishes Minute Man National Historical Park. The park is geographically organized into two non-continuous units: the North Bridge Unit and the Battle Road Unit.
CE 1962	Purchased/Sold	The federal government begins acquiring land within the North Bridge Unit with the purchase of the Buttrick estate and the former the Battle Lawn estate from the Buttrick family.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1963	Established	The town of Concord and the NPS enter into a cooperative agreement in which the town retains title to the North Bridge battleground property and the National Park Service assumes responsibility for its operation and maintenance.
CE 1964 - 1968	Excavated	NPS archeologists excavate three sites within the North Bridge Unit.
CE 1965	Planned	The NPS approves a master plan for Minute Man National Historical Park. The plan includes general recommendations for the North Bridge and Battle Road Units.
CE 1966	Established	The passage of the National Historic Preservation act in 1966 systematically places all historical units within the National Park Service on the National Register of Historic Place, including Minute Man National Historical Park.
CE 1966	Planned	The NPS Philadelphia Planning and Service Center prepares an "Interim Development Plan" for the North Bridge Unit, detailing recommendations included in the 1965 master plan.
CE 1968 - 1969	Planned	NPS staff complete historic structure reports for four historic buildings in the North Bridge Unit.
CE 1969	Purchased/Sold	By the end of the 1960s, the federal government acquires acquired all but a few parcels of land within the North Bridge Unit.
CE 1971	Planned	Park staff prepare an "Interpretive Prospectus" for the North Bridge Unit, outlining major visitor issues.
CE 1973	Planned	The "North Bridge Development Concept Plan" is completed. The plan addresses problems outlined in the 1971 "Interpretive Prospective."
CE 1975	Memorialized	The two hundredth anniversary celebration of the 1775 battle at the North Bridge takes place in Concord on April 19, 1975. A portion of the event occurs at the site of the North Bridge and in the fields west of the bridge.
CE 1980	Altered	In the early 1980s, the NPS adds curbing to the Monument Street parking lot and redesigns the lanes in the lot to increase parking spaces. The stone wall between the parking lot and Monument Street is also rehabilitated.
CE 1980	Built	The NPS constructs the North Bridge comfort station on the west side of Monument Street in the early 1980s, to replace the public toilet adjoining the Monument Street Parking Lot constructed by the town of Concord in 1951.
CE 1984	Planned	The Harvard University's Graduate School of Design completes the study Alternative Futures for Minute Man National Historical Park as a precursor to a General Management Plan.
CE 1989	Planned	The park completes a General Management Plan. The plan replaces the 1965 master plan as the park's guiding management document.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1990	Planned	In the 1990s, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation prepares two documents addressing landscape issues within the avenue leading to the North Bridge and the circular drive around The Minute Man.
CE 2002	Established	Documentation identifying features and qualities of Minute Man National Historical Park is accepted by the National Register of Historic Places. Initial listing on the National Register in 1966 did not include documentation.
CE 2004	Planned	NPS staff complete a historic structure report for the North Bridge and a cultural landscape report for the North Bridge Unit.
CE 2004	Restored	Secondary growth vegetation is removed in several areas, revealing historic agricultural fields, a stone-lined drainage swale, and stone walls.
CE 2004	Planned	Childs Engineering Corporation and Carol R. Johnson Associates, Inc. complete rehabilitation plans for the 1956 commemorative North Bridge and the North Bridge Unit landscape.
CE 2005	Maintained	The Minute Man enclosure fence is repaired and repainted.
CE 2005	Graded	Portions of the avenue leading to the North Bridge, the circle drive around The Minute Man, and the Groton Road trail are re-graded to improve drainage and inhibit erosion.
CE 2005	Planted	Replacement trees are planted within the allée bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge
CE 2005	Reconstructed	The amphitheater overlooking the battleground; the bases of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man; and portions of the 1956 commemorative North Bridge (including the decking and handrails) are reconstructed.
CE 2005	Built	New waysides, granite archeological site markers, a granite entrance path leading to the battleground from the Monument Street parking lot, and a park sign at the entrance to the parking lot are installed.
CE 2006	Removed	Additional secondary growth is removed from former agricultural fields.

Physical History:

NATIVE LANDSCAPE (to 1634)

By the early seventeenth century, Algonquian people had been planting crops and making fishing weirs along the Musketequid River, known today as the Concord River, for over five hundred years. “Musketequid” is a Native American word meaning “grass-ground river” or “meadow river.” Fishing grounds and agricultural fields managed by Native Americans along the Musketequid River were within the future bounds of the Concord plantation. Although the main Native American settlement was west of the present-day North Bridge Unit (Nashawtuc Hill), bands of Native Americans camped within the present-day North Bridge Unit on the hilltop overlooking the river, west of Liberty Street. (Smith, 2004: 9)

Native Americans constructed fishing weirs along the river and fished the spring spawning runs of alewife and shad. They gathered tubers, wild rice, and cranberries from the wet grassy meadows growing along the riverbank to supplement their diets, and reeds for weaving mats and baskets. Extensive wet meadows were located along both sides of the river within the present-day North Bridge Unit. A sandbar, located just west of the confluence of Mill Brook and the Concord River, may have been a natural crossing point for Native Americans in the summer. (Smith, 2004: 11)

Extensive forests covered the Concord landscape. Oaks, chestnuts, and pitch pines grew in dry upland forests and conifers within river floodplains and swamp forests. Native Americans managed the forest by fire. The managed forest of widely spaced trees void of undergrowth encouraged the growth of grass and other herbaceous plants that, in turn, attracted more browsing game animals. Open pine forest covered about a third of the land in the North Bridge Unit west of the Concord River before European settlement. (Smith, 2004:

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT (1635 - 1823)

Early Settlement and Agriculture:

While settlement along the Massachusetts coastline had taken place for fifteen years following the arrival of the first English Puritans, inland settlement began when the Puritans established the Concord plantation on the Musketequid River in 1635. The six-mile square plantation, located approximately sixteen miles from the coast, included more than nine miles of river, numerous streams, and seven ponds. The waterways were filled with shad, salmon, and alewives, and supported numerous fur-bearing animals. Settlers were drawn to the area by extensive wet meadows flanking the waterways and upland forests previously opened by fire and cultivated by Native Americans. The wet meadows and cleared forests provided immediate livestock feed and fields ready for cultivation. (Smith, 2004: 13)

Concord's first settlers, about twelve families, dug earthen burrows into the southern slope of a prominent east-west ridgeline (today known as Revolutionary Ridge). By 1636, the town began allocating land among the inhabitants. Known as Concord's First Division, each family received a houselot and portions of commonly held wet meadows and agricultural fields, a settlement pattern familiar to the English Puritans. Early houselots were clustered within one-half mile from the town meetinghouse, as ordered by the Massachusetts General Court. They were situated on the well-drained, low terraces of the glacial lake bottom, on level to slightly sloping land. Each lot was within easy reach of commonly held meadows and agricultural fields. While the location of most early houselots complied with the court order, several families settled just outside the one-half mile perimeter, along a ridgeline bordering the western bank of Musketequid River within the present-day North Bridge Unit, including those of John Heald, Thomas Flint, William Buttrick, Thomas Bateman, and Reverend Peter Bulkeley. (Smith, 2004: 13)

Early colonial houselots, typically six to eight acres, contained a house, barn and other outbuildings, a cowyard, a garden, and often an orchard. Depending upon the soils and terrain, the houselots also included tillage land, pasture, meadow, and woods. Adjoining many houselots were small meadow lots of two to four acres and upland field and forest lots of up to ten acres. In addition to houselots, early colonials received First Division agricultural lots within commonly held tillage fields, wet meadows, and special pastures protected by fencing. Although landscape features dictated the location and defined the borders of common fields and meadows, interior lots were geometrically defined and often fenced. With the exception of special pastures, colonial fences and stone walls served to keep livestock out, not in. Cattle, sheep, and pigs roamed freely among undivided forests and pine barrens, known as the "commons." Forests also provided timber for construction and fuel. (Smith, 2004: 14)

Landowners within the present-day North Bridge Unit also raised crops within commonly held fields north and east of their houselots. Each landowner held thirty to fifty acres of wet meadow located within four to six common meadows scattered throughout the plantation. The meadows supplied winter feed for livestock. A portion of a small, commonly held meadow along the river just south of the Thomas Bateman and Thomas Brown houselots was located within the present-day North Bridge Unit. (Smith, 2004: 14-15)

Several designated pastures, with names such as "ox pasture," "horse pasture," and "sheep pasture" were located along the outskirts of the village. These were enclosed pastures, unlike common grazing areas, although apparently they were not subdivided into individual lots. Included within the present-day North Bridge Unit is a portion of a colonial "calf pasture." Bounded to the north and northwest by the Concord River and to the east by Mill Creek, the enclosed pasture may have been a protective area for newly weaned calves. The majority of the Concord landscape remained undivided land, known as the "commons." Livestock roamed freely through the commons, which was covered by deciduous forest and pine plains. (Smith, 2004: 15)

In 1643 and again in 1645, the Puritans petitioned the Massachusetts General Court requesting more land. The 1643 petition described the land as "very barren" and the meadows "very wet and unuseful." The 1645 petition stated "maney houses in the Towne stand voyde of Inhabitants, and

more are likely to be . . . if more go from us we shall neither remayne as a congregation nor as a town.” By the mid-1640s about one-seventh of the population had left Concord to settle in Connecticut. (Smith, 2004: 15-16)

In the early 1650s, Concord finalized plans for its Second Division of land. New land recently granted by the General Court, abandoned land, and land previously held in common was re-distributed among the remaining settlers. To facilitate distribution, the town divided into three ‘quarters’: the North Quarter, the South Quarter, and the East Quarter. Concord’s North Quarter included land within the present-day North Bridge Unit. Within each quarter, landowners were allotted three acres of Second Division land for every acre received during the First Division. Re-distribution took a decade, and when complete houselots once confined to the town center extended throughout the six-mile square plantation. (Smith, 2004: 16-17)

Most or all of the houselots within the present-day North Bridge Unit were well established before the Second Division. In 1660, nine families lived within the borders of the Unit on both sides of the Concord River (Figure 1). Five houselots owned by members of the Smedley, Jones, Blood (two houselots), and Barrett families stood east of the Concord River along the public way leading to the meetinghouse. To the west, members of the Brown, Heald, Buttrick, and Flint families lived along the ridgeline overlooking the river. (Smith, 2004: 16)

Development of Roads and Bridges:

By 1654, although probably much earlier, the town had constructed a simple wooden bridge, known as North Bridge, across the river. Loose planks covering the bridge required inspection and occasional rearrangement before crossing. A farm road (later improved and known as Groton Road) crossed the bridge and connected settlers on both sides of the river with the meetinghouse. A one-rod (16 ½ feet) wide causeway led west from the bridge about four hundred feet through a four-acre swamp. The elevated gravel road with stone base was probably constructed at the same time as the bridge. (Smith, 2004: 13-14)

Weather, spring floods, and decay necessitated continuous maintenance and reconstruction of the North Bridge. Known dates of reconstruction indicate the life-span of the colonial bridge ranged from twenty to thirty years. Town records indicate the bridge was rebuilt about 1660. Although records specifying reconstruction of the North Bridge between 1660 and 1730 have not been located, it is probable Concord replaced the bridge twice during the period, based on known dates of reconstruction for a second bridge built in 1660. Town records note the North Bridge was replaced in 1731. (Smith, 2004-18)

In 1750, the town purchased a strip of land from Captain Jonathan Buttrick along the southern edge of his farm to build a new causeway to replace the causeway constructed by 1654. Buttrick agreed to sell the land provided the town paid for construction of a wall separating the proposed roadway from his property. The new causeway, constructed just north of the original, stretched about four hundred feet in a straight line then curved the north where it ended at the foot of the ridge overlooking the river. It measured six hundred feet long by about forty feet wide. The town constructed the roadway out of sandy clay, possibly dug from borrow pits nearby. To facilitate drainage, the roadbed was crowned in the middle, probably with gravel. The stone wall, as described in 1770, was low, broad, and constructed with very large stones. It provided pedestrian access to the bridge when floodwaters covered the adjacent causeway. The wall would have stood on the north side of the road, since Buttrick did not own the land between the road and the river. Construction of the new causeway and stone wall was complete by 1753. (Smith, 2004: 18-19)

According to Concord town records, the town replaced the North Bridge in 1770 and constructed “a new wall at the westerly end of the causey . . . where the old wall stood.” The bridge was a simple wooden structure covered with loose planks that, as they did on earlier bridges, often needed to be re-arranged before crossing. This is the bridge that spanned the river during the battle at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775. In 1770, Concord hired Captain David Brown to construct a railing along the stone wall adjacent to the causeway to aid pedestrian crossing. The railing consisted of a single handrail attached to posts set at intervals along the wall. (Smith, 2004: 19)

In 1699, Concord formally laid out existing ways and paths on the western side of the North Bridge that had been used for decades by landowners within the present-day North Bridge Unit, and those farther to the north and west. As described in town records, a road followed the causeway west of the bridge then went "up ye hill Betwixt Thomas Brown Senior and Samuel Buttrick's land untill it comes on ye upper end of Thomas Brown Junior his homelott and then turning westerly as ye fence now standeth," continuing west to Groton. Known as the Groton Road, it was one of Concord's most important roads during the colonial period. Between 1764 and 1765, Concord discontinued public use of a portion of the road "under the hill" within the present-day North Bridge Unit and constructed a new roadbed. During the same period, the town paid Captain David Brown for building "two walls through his pasture upon the new laid out way." The new road appears to have run between the Buttrick and Brown properties, possibly similar to the 1699 layout. (Smith, 2004: 19)

After passing over the North Bridge and the causeway, the Groton Road forked to the east and to the west. The east branch of the Groton Road ran northeast up the hill towards Buttrick land along the ridgeline. The west branch ran parallel along the river to the Bateman houselot. Prior to 1749, the west branch of the Groton ended about nine hundred feet west of the fork, where a bridleway began. The bridleway dated to at least 1670. In 1701, the North Quarter granted John Hunt (Bateman's neighbor to the west) permission to set up a gate at the point where the two ways met, provided he did not "hinder or prohibit the sd [said] way from being Improved as a Bridle way at all times & seasons" and he made "provisions for comfortable passing for horses & Teames . . . at sd gate." Nearly fifty years later, the bridleway was improved and opened for general travel. About fifty landowners purchased land from John Hunt and Abishai Brown to "open a Three Rod (49 ½ feet) way to the acceptance of the town from said Abishai Browns to the Gate between said John Hunt & John Batemans." (Smith, 2004: 20)

Land Use In 1775:

During the decades following Concord's Second Division, the common field system slowly dissolved and farmland, through sale and trade, consolidated around the houselots. In the mid-1700s, while many fields had consolidated around houselots on the outskirts of town, farmers in the center of town (including within the present North Bridge Unit) continued to work scattered holdings. Common herding also continued, although enclosed pastures designed to keep livestock in, not out, replaced most First Division commons. Of all land types, Concord's forests became the most privatized. By 1700, landowners had cleared thirty percent of Concord's forests for fields and pastures. (Smith, 2004: 21)

In 1775, the area within the present-day North Bridge Unit had been settled and under agricultural production for over 125 years. And although by the mid-1700s many fields had consolidated around houselots on the outskirts of town, farmers in the center of town (including within the present-day North Bridge Unit) continued to farm scatter fields, wet meadows, and pastures throughout the North Quarter. Within the present-day Battle Road Unit, houselots occupied most of the acreage. Typically, a houselot included a small field, wet meadow, orchard, and a vegetable garden, divided by stone walls and wooden fences. Cutting across the area and crossing at the North Bridge were the Concord River and Groton Road. (Smith, 2004: 21-22)

Five houselots stood west of the North Bridge on top of the ridgeline overlooking the river, along both branches of the Groton Road. The Flint and Brown homes were quite old at the time of the battle, both believed to have been constructed c. 1635. Major John Buttrick lived in a house his father, Jonathan Buttrick, had built for his parents c. 1710 to 1717. It replaced an original house built by his great grandfather William Buttrick that dated to Concord's early settlement. John Buttrick's brother Ephraim lived in the house built by John Heald, c. 1635. His other brother Willard lived in a new house constructed c. 1771-1775 on land deeded to him by Ephraim. Two houselots stood along the road east of the North Bridge (present-day Monument Street). Reverend William Emerson lived on the original Blood houselot in a house built c. 1769-1770, today known as the Old Manse. Elisha Jones lived across the road in a house that may have included at its core the house built by John Smedley before 1640. (Smith, 2004: 22)

The Battle at the North Bridge and the American Revolution:

In October 1774, the Provincial Congress directed colonial field officers to enlist at least one-quarter

of all of the militia into minute companies. Minutemen, as they were known, were trained as instant response companies ready to march upon short notice. In February 1775, the First Provincial Congress ordered storage of military arms within the towns of Concord and Worcester. Colonel James Barrett was placed in charge of Concord's military stores. On the evening of April 18 and 19, 1775, Gage ordered British troops to march to Concord to seize and destroy military stores. (Smith, 2004: 25)

While fighting at the North Bridge took less than three minutes, British and colonial troop movements associated with the battle occurred over a nine-hour period—from approximately 1:00 a.m. when the first alarm bell mustered the militia and minute companies, until about 12:00 noon when British troops left the center of town. Within the present-day North Bridge Unit, British and colonial troops moved and positioned themselves within the fields and houselots overlooking the North Bridge, and on both the east and west branch of the Groton Road and its causeway. (Smith, 2004: 25)

After initially being mustered at 1:00 a.m., Concord men disbanded and were ordered to reassemble again at the beat of a drum. The dismissed men assisted Colonel James Barrett by moving unhidden military stores into private buildings and neighboring towns. Around 8:00 a.m., seven hundred British troops arrived in the center of Concord. (Smith, 2004: 25)

In addition to being in charge of Concord's military stores, Colonel James Barrett also commanded the colonial force on April 19, 1775. Barrett initially ordered troops to take position on a hill about a mile north of the meetinghouse, then later ordered them to withdraw west across the North Bridge to Punkatasset Hill (not within North Bridge Unit) where they would wait for reinforcements. Major John Buttrick lead the colonials to Punkatasset Hill and Colonel Barrett rode to his farm (not within the North Bridge Unit) to insure military supplies hidden there were concealed. (Smith, 2004: 25)

Crossing the North Bridge close behind the colonials were several British companies assigned to destroy military stores on Colonel Barrett's farm and to secure the North Bridge. In all, four British companies proceeded to Barrett's farm along the west branch of the Groton Road; three remained to guard the North Bridge. One of the companies left to guard the bridge was positioned on the causeway just west of the bridge, another on the Ephraim and Willard Buttrick houselots, and the third in Captain David Brown's cow pasture located on high ground overlooking the bridge, known today as the Muster Field. (Smith, 2004: 25-26)

While British troops continued to search for military stores, two colonial companies from neighboring Bedford arrived to join five Concord and two Lincoln companies already assembled on and near Punkatasset Hill. Individuals and small groups from Carlisle, Littleton, and Chelmsford also arrived. The combined force advanced towards Captain David Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field). As the colonials approached, the two British companies positioned on the Buttrick houselots and in Brown's cow pasture withdrew to the North Bridge, joining the British company positioned on the causeway just west of the bridge. Hemmed in by the Concord River on one side and a wet meadow on the other, and concerned about the size of the colonial force, the British sent for reinforcements from the center of town. (Smith, 2004: 26)

Though not fully mustered, the colonials formed rank on Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field). Captain Isaac Davis's Acton Company arrived just before 9:00 a.m., and soon after the colonial troops noticed smoke rising from several buildings in the center of Concord. Fearing the British would burn down the town, the colonials advanced toward the town, prepared to engage British troops at the North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 26)

Under the command of Colonel John Barrett, Major John Buttrick led the advance of about 450 colonials towards the North Bridge along the west branch of the Groton Road. Captain Isaac Davis's company led the march. Outnumbered, the three British companies guarding the North Bridge withdrew to the eastern side of the bridge. To secure more time to get into formation and to allow reinforcements to arrive, the last British troops to cross the bridge began to remove bridge planks. (Smith, 2004:26)

Two of the three British companies scrambled to form a narrow column facing west towards the

bridge; the third was to form supporting flanks in the adjacent fields. However, the speed of the colonial advance did not allow the British to form as planned. The colonials approached the bridge in double file, a typical formation for moving troops along a narrow route and considered a routine marching formation, not one of assault. As Major Buttrick approached the North Bridge, he noticed three planks had been removed and ordered the British soldiers to stop removing planks. The British soldiers stopped and crossed to the eastern side of the bridge, then jumped over a stone wall separating the road from Reverend William Emerson's cow pasture, today known as the Old Manse field. These soldiers, and only a few others, formed the British left flank. (Smith, 2004:26)

Although Major Buttrick noted British soldiers forming what must have been perceived as a threatening formation, he was under orders not to fire unless fired upon. The first shot appears to have been fired by a British soldier from a flank position in Emerson's cow pasture (Old Manse field). Two more British shots and then a volley of British fire that wounded two colonials immediately followed. After which, Major John Buttrick ordered the colonials to return fire. In response, all colonials that could fire without hitting men in front of them did so, some undoubtedly breaking ranks. In the exchange of fire that followed, Captain Isaac Davis and Private Abner Hosmer died. On the British side, two of the soldiers who had jumped the wall into Emerson's cow pasture after removing the planks from the bridge were hit by colonial fire. Their captain and three other officers had also been shot. The entire exchange lasted only a minute or two (Figure 2). (Smith, 2004:26)

Outnumbered and unable to hold their positions, British soldiers broke ranks and retreated toward the center of town. The British left one dead and one seriously injured man, and carried away another dying man. The fleeing troops ran east along Groton Road, turning with the road as it bore south past the house of Reverend William Emerson, known today as the Old Manse. Some of the British troops may have cut through Reverend Emerson's cow pasture (Old Manse field) to the road and then continued south. (Smith, 2004:27)

A group of the colonials crossed the bridge in pursuit of the British, while others returned to Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field), carrying with them the bodies of Captain Isaac Davis and Private Abner Hosmer. The bodies were laid out in the home of Major John Buttrick, located near Brown's cow pasture. The advancing colonials stopped when they saw approaching British reinforcements marching north along the road towards the North Bridge. Although they arrived too late to assist British companies during the battle, their presence halted the colonial advance and provided cover for the retreating British troops. The colonials, including men from Acton and Concord companies, positioned themselves behind a stone wall east of the road, on a hillside overlooking the back of the Elisha Jones house. British troops stood about forty rods (660 feet) from their position. (Smith, 2004: 27)

The British positioned themselves to confront the colonials, but no shots were exchanged. Their mandate, to destroy military supplies not to kill colonials, and the strong colonial defensive position with nearby reinforcements on Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field) were good reasons not to attack the colonials. On the colonial side, Major Buttrick apparently retained the conservative policy of not firing unless fired upon. Also, forty rods (660 feet) was beyond effective musket range. After about ten minutes, British troops continued their march to the center of town. Some of the colonials re-crossed the North Bridge to join troops gathered on the cow pasture, while others may have cut across the Great Meadows to wait for the British at Meriam's Corner. (Smith, 2004:28)

As the four British companies sent to Barrett's farm marched back towards the center of town along the east branch of the Groton Road, they noticed the colonials gathered on the Muster Field and the absence of British troops guarding the North Bridge. Crossing the bridge, the British companies marched past the two dead British soldiers. They did not stop to retrieve the bodies, possibly fearful of a colonial attack. About noon, the British force left the center of town unaware the worst battle was yet to come, along the eighteen-mile route from Concord to Boston. (Smith, 2004:28)

April 19, 1775 marked the opening day of the American Revolution, a conflict that would continue for seven more years. Concord supported the ensuing war by periodically supplying men and by providing requested resources to the colonial army. Minutemen and militia from the town served in numerous campaigns including the siege on Boston, and the battles at Bunker Hill, Dorchester

Heights, Fort Ticonderoga, and Rhode Island. While the demand for soldiers and supplies generally caused financial hardship within the town, some individuals benefited through the sale of surplus agricultural products. Money paid to soldiers and for the purchase of supplies for the army necessitated higher taxes, and extensive wartime printing of paper money resulted in inflated prices. (Smith, 2004: 29)

For a brief period after the war economic hardships persisted. Taxes remained high, paper money was nearly worthless, and some found their debts insurmountable. Rural landowners were the hardest hit; many local farm fields and buildings were neglected. In 1791, Concord had five fewer houses, thirty-two fewer barns, seventy-seven fewer cattle, and cultivated 419 less acres than in 1781, despite a larger population. The economy of Massachusetts recovered during the 1790s and flourished in the decades that followed. By the early 1800s, Concord farmers increasingly produced crops and livestock for cash sale. They cleared more forest for pasturage and increased production of beef and dairy cattle. Timber cut from the forest was sold as lumber and fuel to satisfy the Boston market. (Smith, 2004: 29)

Improved Roads and Bridges:

New and improved roads, along with larger wagons, helped farmers transport agricultural products and timber to the urban market. Significant roadway and bridge improvements occurred within the present-day North Bridge Unit during the late 1700s. In 1788, the town replaced the North Bridge that stood during the battle at the North Bridge. Among the men paid for constructing the new bridge were Captain David Brown, Lieutenant Elisha Jones, and Colonel John Buttrick, all present during the battle and landowners within the present-day North Bridge Unit. Three years later, neighboring landowners reiterated a 1748 denied request to remove the North Bridge and to construct a new bridge near the home of John Flint. This time the town granted the request. In 1793, Concord constructed a new bridge, known as Flint's Bridge, downstream from the North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 29)

A year before, the town constructed another bridge, known as Red Bridge (later as Hunt's Bridge), upstream from the North Bridge. Both bridges were built along the perimeter of the present-day North Bridge Unit. Use of the North Bridge and the portion of the Groton Road passing over it were abandoned. Land within the abandoned roadway east of the bridge reverted into private ownership and was incorporated into adjacent fields and pastures. In 1793, the town authorized Lieutenant Elisha Jones to remove the North Bridge and to allow landowners on the western side of the river to reroute the abandoned section of the road, at their own expense. The altered road alignment coincides with present-day Liberty Street (Figure 3). (Smith, 2004: 29-30)

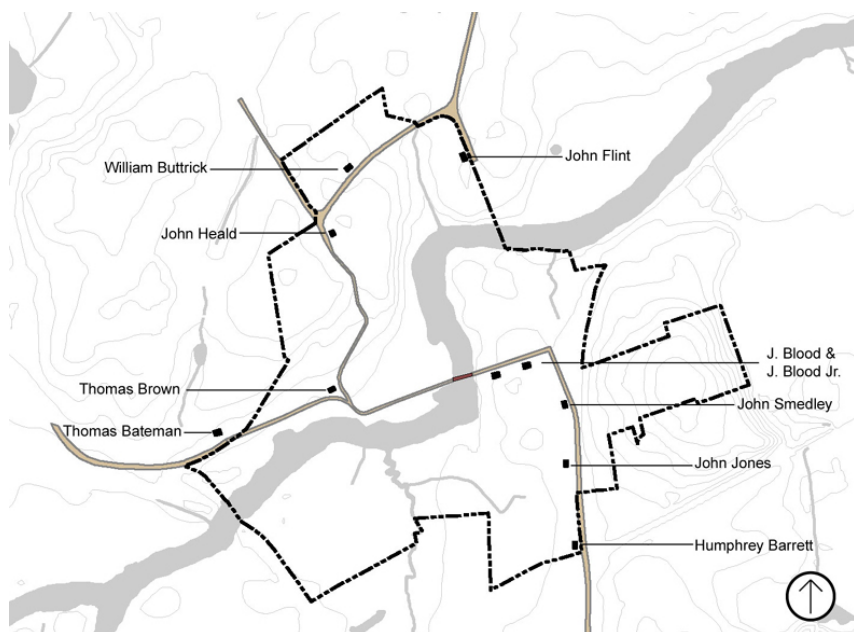


Figure 1. Location of houselots within the North Bridge Unit, c. 1660. (Smith, 2004: 17)



Figure 2. Doolittle Print, Plate III, Note the British Regulars along Groton Road east (right) of the North Bridge and in the Old Manse field, the Colonials along the Groton Road west (left) of the bridge, and the surrounding agricultural landscape.

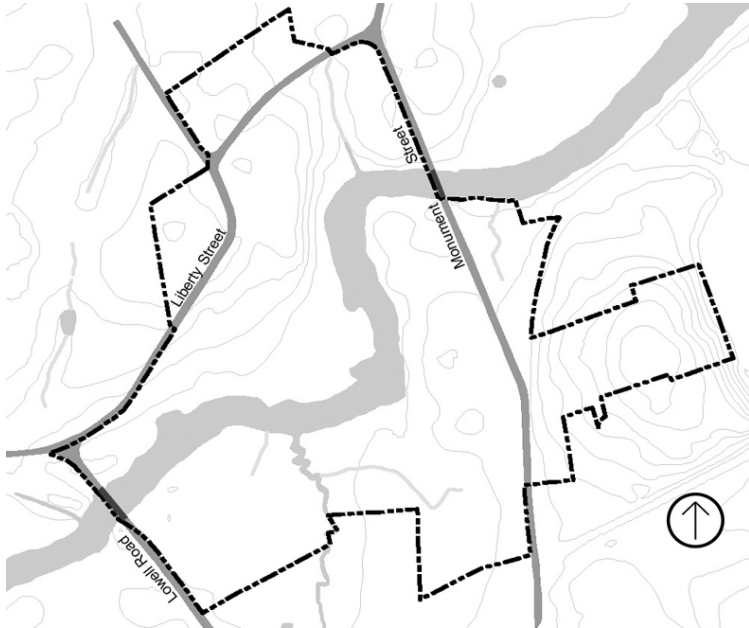


Figure 3. Road alignment, c. 1703. (Smith, 2004: 31)

A CENTURY OF CHANGE (1824 - 1924)

Battleground Commemoration, 1824-1924:

About fifty years passed before descendants of the colonial militia and minutemen who fought at the North Bridge commemorated the battle through anniversary celebrations and the construction of monuments. The first significant celebration appears to have taken place on April 19, 1824. According to an account in the *Concord Gazette & Middlesex Yeoman*, the Concord Artillery Company and the Light-Infantry “paraded in honor of the anniversary,” marching for the first time in their “new and appropriate uniforms, [making] a very elegant and martial exhibition.” At a dinner held after the military maneuvers, the town drank toasts to thirteen surviving patriots. Following the dinner, the military companies paraded to the site of the North Bridge (removed in 1793). Reverend Ezra Ripley (owner of the Old Manse in 1824) addressed the crowd, detailing the historic battle that occurred on the site in 1775. As reported in the newspaper article, the celebration occurred to “keep fresh in the minds of the present generation the fortitude, sufferings, and valor of our fathers” and to “[kindle] the warmest feelings of patriotism.” The newspaper article expressed hope that future anniversaries would not pass unnoticed. (Smith, 2004: 33-34)

In 1824, the Bunker Hill Monument Association petitioned the Legislature for ten thousand dollars to erect a monument commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill. Under an agreement with Concord, the association agreed to give the town six hundred dollars of the grant, provided the town did not separately petition the legislature, fearing two separate petitions would jeopardize both requests. On April 4, 1825, Concord formed a committee of four men to coordinate with the Bunker Hill Monument Association and another of twenty-seven men to determine a suitable location for the monument. The two committees met in preparation for placing a cornerstone on April 19, 1825, the fiftieth anniversary of the battle at the North Bridge. At a town meeting four days later, the town voted to place the monument in the center of town, despite strong objections. Many citizens protested the location, nearly half a mile from the site of the North Bridge. Regardless of the dissent, the town laid the monument cornerstone on the town square as planned during the fiftieth anniversary celebration. After laying the cornerstone, a large crowd, which included visitors from neighboring towns and over sixty veterans of the American Revolution, proceeded to the town meetinghouse. A monument was never placed on the cornerstone, and within two years the cornerstone was destroyed by disgruntled citizens. (Smith, 2004: 34-35)

In 1836, Concord erected the Battle Monument honoring the battle at the North Bridge near the site of the bridge, eleven years after laying the cornerstone for the ill-fated monument. The town placed the monument on land donated by Reverend Ezra Ripley in 1835. The long trapezoidal parcel included the monument site and access between the monument and present-day Monument Street, referred to in Ripley's deed to the town as "the road leading from said Concord to Carlisle and Lowell." The parcel included a section of the old Groton Road that was abandoned in 1793 after the North Bridge was dismantled, and the gravesite of two British soldiers killed at the North Bridge. The deed noted a portion of the tract ran "thirty feet within the walls," indicating two walls lined the old roadbed in 1835. It ordered construction of a "good heavy stone wall" along the south side of the parcel, which may indicate that the southern wall was in disrepair—probable since Ripley had incorporated the abandoned roadbed into his pasture. A year later, Ripley donated additional land abutting the south side of the tract donated in 1835. Together, the two parcels measured 40 feet wide at the eastern end (adjacent to Monument Street) and 84 feet wide at the western end ("at the high-water mark near the river"). (Smith, 2004: 35)

Concord dedicated the Battle Monument, as it is known today, on July 4, 1837. The ceremony included an address by Massachusetts State Representative Samuel Hoar and singing of the "Concord Hymn," written by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Money received from the Bunker Hill Monument Association and held in trust since 1825 funded construction of the monument. Solomon Willard, construction supervisor of the Bunker Hill Monument, designed the obelisk, and artisan James Wilkins constructed the monument. The twenty-five foot obelisk consisting of four pieces of white granite cut from a single boulder placed on top of a granite foundation. Inset into the east face of the obelisk was a white marble slab inscribed with a brief account of the battle at the North Bridge. Documents of historical significance were placed within a cavity at the base of the monument, and an iron fence was placed around its base (Figure 4). The stone wall separating the donated land from Ripley's pasture, specified in his 1835 deed to the town, had been constructed by the time of the dedication. As described July 8, 1837 in the *Yeoman's Gazette*, the site of the monument was "picturesque and pleasant, and at first view excites an interesting association of ideals and recollections." (Smith, 2006: 36)

The Battle Monument was the first physical memorial of the battle at the North Bridge within the present-day North Bridge Unit, except for two small stones reportedly placed over the grave of two British soldiers who died during and soon after the battle at the North Bridge. In 1775, the stones would have been on the south side of the wall in William Emerson's pasture, today known as the Old Manse field. Today, the stones are located on the north side of the wall that separates the commemorative landscape from the Old Manse field. (Smith, 2006: 38)

On April 19, 1838, the sixty-third anniversary of the Battle, two hundred tree saplings in were planted in double rows along the northern and southern edges of the land donated to the town by Rev. Ezra Ripley, forming an avenue leading to the Battle Monument. Forty-three families donated trees, including at least three owning property within the present-day North Bridge Unit: Rev. Ezra Ripley (Old Manse), Samuel Hoar & daughter (Muster Field, Brown houselot/Battle Lawn), and Nathan Barrett (Sargent field, Flint field, Simmons houselot, Elisha Jones houselot). Tree species included elm, buttonwood (sycamore), maple, white oak, larch, fir, pine, ash, hickory, and hornbeam. The committee in charge of tree planting proclaimed the trees would "remain as a living witness to the patriotism of the contributors." Apparently, some of the original trees planted did not survive to maturity. Between 1845 and 1847 the town paid \$43.37 to three individuals who supplied and planted new trees on the battleground. The number of trees replaced appears to have been significant. In fiscal year 1863-1864, the town planted forty-eight trees (within unspecified public grounds) at a cost of \$33.56. (Smith, 2004: 38)

In 1840, the committee responsible for construction of the Battle Monument stated, "the number of visitors has been great [since the monument was erected] and the number will increase with the lapse of time." In addition to the alleé, the committee reported "other improvements may be required" and that the town "should at least preserve and protect what has already been done." In response, Concord appointed a board of seven trustees to "take care of the Monument and its appendages, make improvements, and prevent injury and all other Acts in relation to the Monument." In fiscal year 1845-1846, the town installed an iron gate with four stone pillars at the entrance to the avenue

leading to the Battle Monument. The iron gate cost eighty dollars and replaced an earlier locked gate (of unknown material) that had been repaired the previous year. During the same period, the town paid Nathan Barrett \$2.28 for "riders and laying up [a] wall" on the battleground. Two walls are known to have existed on the battleground in the mid-1800s, one following the southern and the other following the northern border of the avenue leading to the monument. At the time, Barrett owned the field abutting the northern wall. He may have been paid to work on one of the two known walls, or perhaps a wall associated with the front gate. (Smith, 2004: 38-39)

In 1850, Concord and Lexington held a joint seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in Concord. An estimated three thousand to five thousand people from the neighboring towns and the cities of Lowell and Boston attended, arriving by train, carriage, and on horseback. Monument Street, as well as other streets and houses within the town, were decorated with flags and streamers. A tablet bearing the inscription "19th of April 1775" and "The Birthplace of American Liberty" hung across the entrance of the avenue leading to the monument. American flags were suspended from the trees lining the avenue and another was positioned on top of the Battle Monument. According to an account published in the Boston Daily Mail, "The scene at the Monument, a lovely spot on the banks of the Concord River, was extremely picturesque and inspiring." (Smith, 2004: 39-40)

At about 11:00 a.m., a procession formed and marched from the center of town to the Battle Monument. The parade included military companies (in new uniforms), one survivor of the battle at the North Bridge, bands, and dignitaries including the governor of Massachusetts. The procession stopped for a moment at the monument as Acton minutemen, positioned on the opposite bank of the river saluted the procession, firing over the spot where Captain Isaac Davis and Private Abner Hosmer had fallen during the battle. A canvas sign lettered in black "Davis and Hosmer" at the location. After the Acton salute, the procession rounded the monument and proceeded back down the avenue, passing for a second time past the two small stones which marked the grave of the British soldiers, over which a British flag flew at half-mast. The celebration concluded with dinner and orations held in a large pavilion near the railroad station. (Smith, 2004: 40)

According to the 1850-1851 Concord Town Report, the town sold "part of the stone wall remaining on the north side" of the battleground for ten dollars. Between 1851 and 1852 the town planted a buckthorn hedge that extended to the river in place of the stone wall. The Concord Town Report for 1851-1852 notes the hedge had "grown well, and promises to become quite an ornament to [the battleground] in a few years." During the same period, the town installed a wire fence along the hedge to protect the young plants. The fence cost twenty-five cents per rod (16 ½ feet) and was jointly paid for by the town and by the Simmons, property owners abutting the buckthorn hedge. The report stated the wire fence "answers the purpose admirably, and furnishes a pattern that may well be copied by those desiring the neatest, most durable and cheapest fence in use." (Smith, 2004: 40)

Until at least 1869, grass covered the avenue leading to the monument. During fiscal year 1869-1870, Concord's superintendent of public grounds recommended covering the approach with hard gravel, stating "Strangers visiting [the monument] are compelled to walk some distance through grass covered with dew. Many ladies and children find it unsafe to make the attempt." (Smith, 2004: 40, 42)

Before his death in 1870, Concord citizen Ebenezer Hubbard gave the town of Concord six hundred dollars towards the cost of a bridge to be constructed on the site of the North Bridge. Hubbard was displeased with the location of the Battle Monument, erected on the eastern side of the river where British troops fought during the battle at the North Bridge. He reasoned if a new bridge crossed the river the town would be inclined to erect a monument on the western bank, the colonial position during the battle. The town accepted the donation but took no immediate action. Through his will, Hubbard gave the town an additional one thousand dollars for construction of the proposed monument. (Smith, 2006: 42)

In 1872, a committee appointed to examine the proposal to build a bridge across the river and to erect a new monument recommended accepting the bequest of Ebenezer Hubbard to build the bridge and a quarter-acre parcel offered by Stedman Buttrick I for placement of the new monument. A conditional deed executed by the heirs of Stedman Buttrick (apparently Buttrick died before the land

transfer) on May 28, 1875 required the town to “forever make and maintain a suitable fence around said land” and stipulated the town “shall not have any right of way to said lot over other land” belonging to the heirs. The committee also recommended construction of “a suitable footbridge” and placement of a “statue of a Continental Minute Man” on the western side (colonial position) of the river. Both the statue and the bridge were to be complete by, and dedicated on the one-hundredth anniversary of the battle at the North Bridge. (Smith, 2006: 42)

Local sculptor Daniel C. French designed The Minute Man, cast in bronze from ten pieces of condemned brass cannons given to the town by the United States Congress. The seven-foot tall statue was placed on top of a white granite pedestal, cut from the same granite boulder used to construct the Battle Monument. The first stanza of the Concord Hymn, written by Ralph Waldo Emerson and first sung at the dedication of the Battle Monument, was inscribed on the eastern side of the pedestal. Placed inside a copper box under the granite pedestal were documents and objects significant to the history of the town, as well as a few contemporary objects such as stamps, newspapers, and centennial anniversary invitations. (Smith, 2004: 42-43)

Aligned with the center of the bridge, the monument was 110 feet from its western edge. It was placed in front of an old apple stump where, according to tradition, Isaac Davis fell during the battle at the North Bridge. To protect the statue from seasonal flooding, the town raised the quarter-acre site with earthen fill approximately six feet to the height of the old North Bridge abutment. To inhibit erosion, the sides of the landform were covered with turf and a willow hedge was planted along its perimeter. (Smith, 2004: 43)

The iron fence surrounding the base of the Battle Monument and the iron gate that stood across the entrance to the battleground were repositioned around the western base of the quarter-acre landform. At the same time, the town constructed a wooden railing along the northern and southern base of the landform, adjoining the iron fence. Combined, the fence and railing separated the donated parcel from the Buttrick property, as stipulated in the deed. (Smith, 2004: 44)

A smaller mound positioned on top of the earthen fill supported the base of the monument, under which a deep pit was dug and filled with rubble to provide a firm foundation. The entire mound was covered with turf and four small granite buffers were placed at its base (and at the base of the Battle Monument), one on each corner. Encircling the monument was a gravel drive. Historic photographs and the Concord Town Report for 1875-1876 indicate the town completed some of the landscaping around The Minute Man, including the repositioned iron fence and the granite buffers, after the centennial anniversary celebration. (Smith, 2004: 44)

The commemorative North Bridge, designed by Boston Architect William R. Emerson, was constructed during the summer and autumn of 1874. Although there was, at least initially, a desire to make the new bridge resemble the old North Bridge, Victorian taste ultimately prevailed. According to celebration proceedings, the ornately rustic 1874 commemorative North Bridge substituted “a paling of graceful pattern made of cedars with the bark on” for the rough railings of the 1775 bridge. The bridge included two equally rustic half-arbors centered at the top of the bridge and projecting over the water “where pilgrims might sit and watch the quiet river brimming its meadows” (Figure 5). (Smith, 2004: 44)

Also erected in time for the centennial anniversary was a granite marker that formally identified the grave of the two British soldiers killed during the battle at the North Bridge. Concord’s superintendent of public grounds initiated placement of the marker over the grave five years before the celebration. He suggested a “small stone slab, with a suitable inscription” should be placed over the grave, stating the two small stones that marked the grave were “neither seen nor understood by strangers.” The town placed a small rectangular monument within the stone wall adjacent to the grave, leaving the two small stones in place. The monument, inscribed “Grave of the British Soldiers,” cost twenty-five dollars. (Smith, 2004: 47)

The centennial celebration began with a procession of politicians, dignitaries, bands, and military units on Main Street, proceeded through Monument Square then traveled north on Monument Street past the Old Manse and then under a specially designed centennial arch. Just past the arch, the

processional turned west and marched along the avenue leading to the North Bridge, past the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers, to the Battle Monument. Unlike the seventy-fifth anniversary parade, after reaching the Battle Monument the centennial anniversary processional did not reverse direction and head back towards town. The processional crossed over the 1874 commemorative North Bridge and marched along the old causeway towards two large oration and dining tents erected on the site of the Captain David Brown house, pausing briefly as President Ulysses S. Grant unveiled The Minute Man. (Smith, 2004: 49-50)

After the centennial anniversary celebration, crowds of tourists continued to visit the battleground. Drawn by the two impressive monuments and the picturesque bridge, visitors from the greater Boston area and beyond increasingly visited the battleground. Tourists arrived in large numbers during summer weekends and patriotic holidays, many disembarking the train at the nearby railroad station, just south of the present-day North Bridge Unit. From the train station, carriages for hire escorted tourists to the battleground. Carriages, and later automobiles, were permitted to drive down the avenue leading to the North Bridge and park near the monuments. (Smith, 2004: 51)

Tourists also experienced the battleground from the Concord River, floating past fields and wet meadows and then under the commemorative bridge. Late nineteenth and early twentieth-century photographs and maps depict a number of boathouses along the river. Some of the boathouses were privately owned, and others were clubs requiring membership. At least six boathouses are known to have existed within the present-day North Bridge Unit at the turn of the twentieth century, three (possibly four) south of the bridge and three to the north. Although boathouses played a part in attracting visitors to the battleground, it was the monuments and the commemorative bridge that were the primary attraction. During the fifty years between the centennial and the sesquicentennial celebrations, numerous changes occurred within the commemorative landscape. These included replacement of the 1874 commemorative bridge, placement of several new monuments, and grading of the earthen fill under The Minute Man. (Smith, 2004: 54, 57)

Two new commemorative bridges were constructed during this period, one in 1888 and the other in 1909. High spring water levels exerted pressure on the bridges, weakening their hold. The 1888 commemorative North Bridge replaced the 1874 commemorative North Bridge, which was carried away by the 1888 spring freshet. In an attempt to strengthen the new bridge, the delicate features of the rustic 1874 commemorative North Bridge were replaced with heavy oak piles, posts, railings, and diagonal props. Despite its sturdier construction, the second bridge fell during the spring flood of 1909. Later that year, under the direction of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, the town built the third commemorative bridge. The bridge was constructed of concrete in a determined effort to extend its life span. For the first time, the design of the bridge closely followed that of the historic North Bridge as depicted in the Doolittle Print (see Figure 2). Although design of the 1909 commemorative North Bridge approached historical accuracy and its structure withstood the devastating effects of flooding for over forty years, many disliked the bridge because of its concrete construction. (Smith, 2004: 58)

In 1877, Concord placed a granite post and iron chain fence around the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers at the expense of Herbert Radclyffe, an English-born Bostonian. In 1910 a slate slab engraved with text from James Russell Lowell's poem "Lines" was placed on the stone wall bordering the graves. Peter Brooks, a direct descendent of an original Concord settler, donated the funds to erect the marker. (Smith, 2004: 60)

Concord also erected several monuments outside of the publicly owned commemorative landscape adjacent to the North Bridge. In 1885 the town placed a monument marking the site of Captain David Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field), where colonial militia and minutemen gathered on the morning of April 19, 1775 before confronting British Regulars at the North Bridge. Known today as the Muster Field Monument, it was one of seven monuments erected throughout Concord in celebration of the town's 250th anniversary celebration. The monument was inset into a stone wall along the north side of Liberty Street owned by George and Mary Keyes. In 1915, Concord erected the John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument on the south side of Liberty Street within a stone wall owned by Stedman Buttrick II. The following year Buttrick granted the land occupied by the monument to the town. Daniel Chester French, the artist who sculpted The Minute Man, designed the John Buttrick Bas-

Relief Monument. The rustic granite monument stands 9 feet by 16 feet and includes a bronze image of John Buttrick, flanked by two granite benches. The granite Mile Marker and the granite Line of March Marker were erected on a small grass island at the intersection of Liberty Street and Estabrook Road, reportedly in the early 1900s. The granite Mile Marker is a square-cut marker that stands approximately two feet high. The granite Line of March Marker is a large granite slab that stands about three feet to the south, marking the colonial line of march on April 19, 1775. (Smith, 2004: 61-62)

Numerous landscape changes also occurred within the commemorative landscape during this period. Between 1881 and 1883 the town re-graded the quarter-acre landform under The Minute Man. Similar work was performed in association with the Battle Monument. Additional battleground improvements included installing a water fountain (1883-1884), graveling the avenue leading to the North Bridge (1895-1896 and 1910-1911), and replacing the wire fence along the northern edge of the avenue leading to the bridge (1892-1893). Benches and rubbish barrels were also placed within the landscape. (Smith, 2004: 62-63)

Both the mound at the base of The Minute Man and Battle Monument were altered in 1909, at a total cost of \$216.08. The town placed concrete curbing around the circular base of both monuments, squaring the sides. The work was probably completed at the same time the concrete 1909 commemorative North Bridge was constructed. In 1915, under the direction of Landscape Architect Philip Homer Elwood, Jr., the town planted four cedars at the base of the Battle Monument, one on each corner. Elwood also directed the planting of pine trees at the eastern end of the bridge. The following year, the town placed shrubs around the Battle Monument and in the rear of The Minute Man. The shrubs in back of The Minute Man may have been Japanese barberry plants depicted in twentieth-century photographs. (Smith, 2004: 63-64)

The double rows of trees flanking both sides of the avenue leading to the North Bridge are depicted in numerous late-1800s and early-1900s photographs and are described in several written accounts from the same period. Images from the turn of the century show double rows of mature deciduous and evergreen trees lining both sides of the avenue leading to the North Bridge (Figure 6). A footpath ran between the double rows of trees along the south side of the avenue. An article in the April 4, 1891 Cambridge Tribune mentions "firs and pines" lining the way, while another article published in the Boston Herald in 1912 states the road was "walled and arched with rims of elms and maples and pines." The presence of additional tree species reportedly planted in 1838, such as buttonwood, white oak, larch, ash, hickory, and hornbeam, is unknown. According to the Concord Guide Book published in 1880, "some of the townspeople [could still] tell which tree was planted by their ancestor." (Smith, 2004: 64)

Suburban Estates, 1879-1924:

In 1879 and 1911, descendants of Colonel James Barrett and Major John Buttrick transformed a significant portion of the agricultural landscape overlooking the battleground into suburban estates. Both men commuted to work in Boston: Edwin Shepard Barrett as a goatskin dealer and Stedman Buttrick II as an investment broker.

Battle Lawn:

Edwin Barrett built his estate, known as "Battle Lawn," on the houselot owned by Captain David Brown in 1775. Minute and militia companies under his great grandfather Colonel James Barrett's command during the battle at the North Bridge mustered, in part, on the high ground occupied by his estate. The estate included a mansion (1879), a gardener's cottage (1883), a stable, a small "gazebo-like" structure, an estate drive, and a memorial marker. The marker commemorated the contributions of his colonial ancestors Colonel James Barrett and Captain Nathan Brown during the battle at the North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 67)

The mansion overlooked the newly constructed 1874 commemorative North Bridge and The Minute Man. Barrett altered the topography of the hillside to accommodate buildings and a private drive. The drive began on Liberty Street, circled in front of the mansion, and then continued northwest to the stable. Historic photographs depict a stone wall along the northern boundary of the estate, bordering Liberty Street. (Smith, 2004: 67-68)

Barrett extensively landscaped the upper portion of the estate along Liberty Street with ornamental trees and shrubs set on a groomed lawn; the southern portion of the estate remained an agricultural field. Historic photographs reveal trimmed shrubs, specimen trees, vines growing on the mansion, and a decorative flowerbed in the center of the circular drive (Figure 7). (Smith, 2004: 67-68)

Edwin Barrett died in 1898. The Barrett family continued to live on the property for several years, then rented the estate. In 1909, Edward A. Newell purchased the property and extensively enlarged and remodeled the mansion under the direction of Boston Architect Frank Chouteau Brown. Newell employed a gardener who occupied the cottage. The stone marker erected by Edwin Barrett was probably removed during this period, possibly buried on the property. (Smith, 2004: 70)

Buttrick Estate:

In 1910, a year after Edwin Newell renovated the Battle Lawn estate, Stedman Buttrick II became sole owner of the Buttrick farm. The same year he purchased additional property along Liberty Street abutting his property from Mary E. Davis (western one-half of Flint field), and a parcel along Monument Street known as Honeysuckle Island. In 1923, he purchased a second parcel (eastern one-half of Flint field) from the Davis family at the corner of Liberty and Monument Streets. (Smith, 2004: 72)

Soon after acquiring the farm, Buttrick hired Boston Architect James Purdon to design a house and to layout the estate. Purdon's layout included the location of proposed buildings (Stedman Buttrick house, caretaker's house, and carriage house) an entrance drive, and a service drive. The plan required removal of a stone wall, farm buildings, and a portion of an extensive orchard growing along the top and on the western slope of Buttrick Hill. Several areas required grading to accommodate proposed buildings. (Smith, 2004: 72)

In 1911, construction began on the two and one-half story Classical Revival-style house. The house was built near the house once occupied by Stedman Buttrick I, on top of Buttrick Hill overlooking the Concord River. After construction of the house was complete in 1913, the old house (Stedman Buttrick I house) was moved to Monument Street. The Buttrick caretaker's cottage and the carriage house were built partially on the property purchased from Mary E. Davis in 1910 (western one-half of Flint field). During the same year, Buttrick hired Charles H. Wheeler of Framingham, Massachusetts to create a planting plan for his estate. Wheeler's plan included a rectangular flower garden south of the proposed house (upper garden), an orchard adjacent to the caretaker's cottage and carriage house, and a rectangular plot southwest of the house identified on later plans as a tennis court. The listed features are known to have been constructed. It is not known if other plans appearing on Wheeler's drawing were ever implemented. (Smith, 2004: 72, 74)

In the early to mid-1920s, Boston Landscape Architect Harold Hill Blossom guided landscape improvements on the estate. Blossom graduated from Harvard University in 1907 and worked for twelve years for the Olmsted Brothers in Brookline, Massachusetts. While at the Olmsted firm, Blossom worked on the San Diego and Seattle expositions and assisted in the planning and development of subdivision and park projects as well as numerous gardens and private estates. In 1919, Blossom opened his own office in Boston, specializing in private grounds and gardens design. (Smith, 2004: 74)

A topographical plan prepared by Blossom in 1923 reveals existing landscape features not included on Charles H. Wheeler's 1911 planting plan, including a circular garden (lower garden) south of Wheeler's rectangular garden, and a series of steps leading down the east slope of Buttrick Hill towards the river. The same year, Blossom prepared a preliminary garden plan that included a flagstone path connecting the two gardens and stairs leading to the river. He also redesigned the configuration of flower beds in the circular garden (lower garden) (Figure 8). Many or all of his proposed changes appear to have been implemented. In 1925, the same year Stedman Buttrick II died, Blossom prepared an extensive perennial planting plan for the circular garden. It is not known if Blossom's perennial planting plan was ever implemented. (Smith, 2004: 74)

Landscape Summary, 1824-1924:

Although a significant portion of the present-day North Bridge Unit landscape remained under agricultural production in 1924, equally significant acreage included non-agricultural land use. Development of the commemorative landscape, construction of estate landscapes, and a general decline in the rural economy converted a number of agricultural fields, pastures, and wet meadows into formal landscapes and secondary forests. Stone walls, hedgerows, and roads separated properties, fields, and differing land uses. While overall circulation remained consistent with roads present at the turn of the nineteenth century, numerous routes developed within individual tracts. A major change in the size, type, and style of buildings occurred between 1824 and 1924; numerous buildings were razed, remaining colonial structures were altered, and new buildings constructed. Notable construction during this period included six major buildings associated with the Battle Lawn and Buttrick estates. Commemorative features added during the period included the allée, several versions of the commemorative North Bridge, and five major monuments. (Smith, 2004: 78)



Figure 4. Stereoscopic view west of the Battle Monument. Note the Concord River in the background, the great elm behind the monument, and the iron fence enclosing the monument base. (Photograph Files, Concord Free Public Library)



Figure 5. View northeast of The Minute Man (left), Minute Man enclosure fence. 1874 commemorative North Bridge and Battle Monument (right), c. 1880s. Concord River and wetland are in foreground. (MIMA Archives, Box 12, #34306)



Figure 6. View east of the alleé from the Battle Monument, c. 1880-1902. Note the footpath (right). (MIMA Archives, Box 12, #34207)



Figure 7. View of hay harvest along the Concord River in front of the Battle Lawn house, c. 1883-1907. Barrett's gardener's cottage is visible left of the mansion. (Photographic Files, Concord Free Public Library)



(Smith, 2004: 84).

Old North Bridge Protective Association:

In 1929, the Old North Bridge Protective Association formed to “protect the approaches to the Old North Bridge” and to promote the “comfort and instruction” of visitors. During the same year, the Massachusetts General Court authorized the town to “acquire by taking in fee by eminent domain . . . or by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise” land necessary to accomplish their goals. Land specified in Massachusetts House of Representative Bill No. 930 included:

1. Land north of the avenue leading to the North Bridge, owned by Mrs. James D. Tanner (Simmons house/lot).
2. A triangular parcel located east of Monument Street, across from the entrance to the avenue leading to the North Bridge.

The town hoped to acquire the parcel owned by Mrs. James D. Tanner to construct a new building to house the Antiquarian Society and a large parking lot to provide automobile parking for visitors to the Antiquarian Society and to the North Bridge. A proposed access road would provide access to both the parking lot and the Antiquarian Society building from Monument Street. Soon after completion of the plan, the Antiquarian Society chose another building site and the town abandoned the project. (Smith, 2004: 86)

Monument Street Parking Lot:

In 1929, the town constructed a parking lot on the eastern side of Monument Street, across from the entrance to the battleground, in the triangular parcel identified in House Bill 930. The previous year automobiles had been restricted from entering the avenue leading to the North Bridge because they “caused confusion and because much paper and other refuse was strewn about the grounds by motorists holding picnics under the trees,” according to an article in the Concord Enterprise. The parking lot accommodated both automobiles and tour buses. In 1930, the town constructed an additional entrance to the parking lot (north entrance), erected granite posts at all three entrances/exits, planted trees and shrubs along the north and south sides of the parking lot, and installed a drinking fountain. In 1951, the town built a public toilet facility adjoining northern boundary of the lot. (Smith, 2004: 86)

Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Allee:

The 1928 Concord Town Report proposed re-grading “certain portions of the approach to the Monuments and the bridge” with loam removed during the proposed construction of the North Bridge parking lot. The report stated an “immediate remedy” was needed “to protect the roots of the trees from further damage and to furnish nourishment for the trees.” In 1930, the town planted two rows of hemlocks and two rows of maples within the alleé. The following year, several of the hemlocks planted in 1930 had died and were replaced, and by 1936 nearly all of the hemlocks planted between 1930 and 1932 had died. The same year, new hemlocks and white pines were planted in place of the dead trees. Twenty-five years later, the 1951 Concord Town Report stated “several of the old pines [were] in various stages of decay” and reported eleven new trees had been planted, including larch, oak, red pine, and white pine. (Smith, 2004: 88)

Trustees of Reservations and The Old Manse:

In 1939, the Trustees of Reservations purchased the Old Manse property from Sarah Ripley, a descendent of Ezra Ripley. The Trustees of Reservations, founded in 1891, was the first private statewide organization in the nation dedicated to the conservation and preservation of land with exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value. The Old Manse stood at the time of the battle at the North Bridge and is also significant as the temporary home of American author Nathaniel Hawthorne. Hawthorne wrote *Mosses* from the Old Manse while residing at the Old Manse in the 1840s. The Trustees of Reservations’ land includes the Old Manse house/lot, the Old Manse field, and the stone wall along the northern border of the field, abutting the southern boundary of the town-owned avenue leading to the North Bridge. In 1943, the Trustees of Reservations installed a sign at the northern edge of their property to draw tourists from the avenue leading to the North Bridge to the Old Manse. The sign stood adjacent to an opening in the wall leading to a path connecting the two sites. (Smith, 2004: 88)

Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study:

In 1936, an act of Congress authorized and directed the National Park Service (NPS) to complete a comprehensive study of park, parkway, and recreational area programs within the United States in cooperation with state governments. In 1941, the Massachusetts State Planning Board and the NPS submitted a report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, outlining recommendations to improve the state's recreational system. Recommendations included suggestions for improving the Massachusetts State Park system, for extending a recognized system of tour ways, and for federal acquisition and development of three areas, including the "Concord Battle Ground." This report may have influenced later decisions regarding preservation of the battleground and establishment of Minute Man National Historical Park. (Smith, 2004: 88-89).

Protecting and Improving the Battleground:

By the early 1950s, increasing foot traffic within the commemorative landscape threatened the integrity of the battleground. The town undertook several projects in the 1950s to protect the grassy mounds under the base of the monuments and the lawn under the alleé, and to control erosion. In 1951, the town re-graded the entire landscape between Monument Street and the bridge, and covered the avenue leading to the North Bridge and the circular drive around The Minute Man with stone dust. Loam and grass seed was spread under the alleé, including along the former walkways on both sides of the avenue leading to the North Bridge. By 1953, the paths reappear, reportedly caused by undirected foot traffic. According to the 1953 Concord Town Report, heavy traffic had created "two concave paths which wash in very heavy rain." The unintended paths were rototilled, loamed, fertilized, limed, and seeded with wear and drought resistant grass. To protect the new lawn, the town blocked each of the path entrances with a pair of granite posts connected by a chain. As an added measure, the Concord Road Commission proposed resurfacing the avenue leading to the North Bridge with bituminous concrete. (Smith, 204: 91)

Concord Fight Marker and the 1956 Commemorative North Bridge:

In 1955, Concord erected the Concord Fight Marker to replace a decaying wooden sign titled "Concord Fight." The sign, placed by the town for the sesquicentennial anniversary celebration in 1925, had stood for thirty years on the north side of the eastern abutment of the 1909 commemorative North Bridge. Both the sign and the Concord Fight Marker included a battle narrative written by local historian Allen French. The bronze tablet bearing the narrative on the Concord Fight Marker was mounted on a 54-inch uncut granite boulder. (Smith, 204: 91)

The same year, record floodwaters damaged the 1909 commemorative North Bridge beyond repair. In 1956, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts constructed the fourth commemorative North Bridge (extant), with funds allocated by the federal government for New England disaster relief. Responding to local protests against replicating the bridge in concrete as the 1909 bridge had been constructed; the state constructed the 1956 commemorative North Bridge with pressure treated timbers (Figure 9). (Smith, 204: 91)

The Battle Lawn and The Buttrick Estate:

Following Stedman Buttrick II's death in 1925, his son Stedman Buttrick III expanded the Buttrick estate. In 1926, Stedman Buttrick III purchased the neighboring Battle Lawn estate and incorporated it into the Buttrick estate. The same year, the Battle Lawn gardener's cottage was relocated to Lang Street in Concord. Buttrick initially retained the Battle Lawn mansion, renamed Overlea and occupied by his aunt Mary Buttrick Hoar until 1952. A year later the mansion was razed. The Battle Lawn stable may also have been removed the same year. (Smith, 204: 92)

Stedman Buttrick III began propagating irises in the mid-1930, establishing about two hundred varieties of bearded iris within his gardens (Figure 10). By the 1950s, the Buttrick estate had become nationally known for its extensive iris collection. Horticultural groups such as the Iris Society visited the estate gardens. Additional decorative plantings within the gardens included azaleas, rhododendrons, peonies, and specimen evergreen shrubs. In 1959, the estate gardens are featured in the National Geographic Magazine (Smith, 204: 92)

In the 1940s, Stedman Buttrick III constructed additional estate gardens. While most were built after

World War II, construction of a linear terraced walkway leading down Buttrick Hill to a landing occurred during the war. Additional gardens built during the 1940s included terraced pathways down Buttrick Hill south of linear terraced walkway (post-1945); a rock garden (post-1946); and a linear garden leading from the Stedman Buttrick house to the Battle Lawn/Overlea mansion (late 1940s). (Smith, 204: 94)

The linear garden leading the Battle Lawn/Overlea mansion cut across the site of the original tennis courts and passed over the Groton Road site. It is not known if any sections of the Groton Road remained exposed by the 1940s and 1950s; however, at least the section lying under the garden is known to have existed as late as 1928. This portion of the road is depicted on a 1928 topographic plan of the estate as a wagon road. (Smith, 204: 94)

In the early 1940s, Buttrick constructed a grass tennis court north of the house and in the mid-1940s the original clay tennis court (southwest of the house) was removed and its clay surface reused to replace the turf on the early 1940s court. In c. 1949-1950, Buttrick constructed a small rectangular swimming pool, just west of the rectangular (upper) and circular (lower) gardens, across a portion of the site of the original clay tennis court. (Smith, 204: 95)

In addition to the flower gardens, the family maintained hayfields, vegetable gardens, and livestock. Most of the crops were grown on the Major John Buttrick property, north and east of the Major John Buttrick house. Typically found on the farm during the 1940s and 1950s were four to five milk cows, several horses, and at different times chickens and pigs. According to Stedman Buttrick IV, who grew up on the farm during the 1930s-1950s, crops were grown for family consumption. (Smith, 204: 94)

Stedman Buttrick II's second wife, Mary Brooks Buttrick, live in the Major John Buttrick house following the death of her husband. By the early 1940s, a small residence was built on a portion of the Major John Buttrick property abutting Estabrook Road for George McWilliams, Mrs. Buttrick's chauffeur/handyman. (Smith, 204: 94)

Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments:

At the March 1956 Concord town meeting, the town created the Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments to study problems related to the care and maintenance of the town's parks and historic monuments. In 1958, the committee worked with Landscape Architect Dorothea Harrison to create a plan for battleground improvements. Under the guidance of Harrison, the town decided to "retain the aspect of a country road as far as possible, for that is what it was in 1775." This statement included in the 1958 Concord Town Report probably refers to a decision not to resurface the avenue leading to the North Bridge with bituminous concrete, an idea proposed by the Concord Road Commission in 1953. The committee noted two significant issues that needed to be addressed within the battleground landscape: the appearance of the mounds at the base of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man and the need to improve the overall appearance of the landscape by reducing erosion. (Smith, 2004: 96)

Under the direction of the committee and Harrison, the town replaced the concrete curbing installed at the base of both mounds in 1909 with granite curbing. In addition, the 1958 Concord Town Report stated granite slabs were placed between the base of The Minute Man and the granite curbing (front and back) to encourage the "many visitors hav[ing] their picture taken in front of the Minute Man," to step on the slabs and not on the mound, and granite stairs for the same purpose were installed on the front side of the mound under the Battle Monument. Unused sections of granite curbing were "used to take care of water coming down on the far side of the bridge and washing around the short abutments there." It is not known exactly where these were placed. (Smith, 2004: 96)

The committee recommended re-grading, replanting grass, and stabilizing the surface of the avenue leading to the North Bridge with a "natural surface good in all weather," to prevent erosion of the lawn and the avenue. One measure to inhibit erosion is noted in the 1958 Concord Town Report. The Concord Highway Department installed a granite threshold at the entrance to a path leading to the Old Manse, with an opening in the stone wall that separates the commemorative landscape from the Old Manse field. The report indicated the threshold held the grade and diverted water from the path

to the grass under the alleé. (Smith, 2004: 96)

In 1959, because of an uncertainty concerning the future role of the town regarding the maintenance of the battleground (see below), the committee did not want to recommend additional landscape changes. The last improvement attributed to the committee noted in the 1959 Concord Town Report was several ornamental shrubs planted by Harrison “on the Minuteman side of the Bridge,” including Japanese barberry, yellow twigged dogwood, and multiflora rose. (Smith, 2004: 96)

Boston National Historic Sites Commission:

In 1955, the federal government created the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to study the feasibility of establishing a coordinated program between the federal government and local and state organizations to preserve the most important colonial and revolutionary properties in the Boston area. Commission members included businessmen, historians, politicians, and Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service. Concord’s Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments met with the commission, as did other local community representatives. (Smith, 2004: 97)

In October 1956, the National Park Service completed preliminary sketches of a proposed national park located along the “Lexington-Concord Battleroad.” The proposed park included portions of the present-day North Bridge Unit and the Battle Road Unit within Minute Man National Historical Park. Within the present-day North Bridge Unit, the plan included approximately 220 acres and historic buildings and structures, monuments, tourist amenities, and the approximate location of the east branch of the Groton Road. The Boston National Historic Sites Commission prepared a photograph album entitled “Photographs to Accompany Proposed Plans for Lexington-Concord Battle Road” that included copies of historic and contemporary photographs of buildings and landscapes within the proposed park boundaries. (Smith, 2004: 97)

In June 1958, the BNHSC submitted an interim report to Congress, recommending the establishment of a national park embracing the historic battle route between Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord. The proposed park, to be known as “Minute Man,” would consist of two units, as presented on the 1956 NPS preliminary sketches. Unit A (present-day Battle Road Unit) would include slightly more than four miles of roadside landscape between Meriam’s Corner in Concord and Route 128 in Lexington. Unit B (present-day North Bridge Unit) would include 155 acres of landscape surrounding the 1956 commemorative North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 97)

The commission was also concerned about the condition of the commemorative North Bridge landscape, noting severe “wear and tear on shrubs and other plantings, and on roads, pathways, fences and other structures under such heavy load of public use.” It recommended conveying responsibility for site maintenance to the National Park Service, regardless of whether the title to the property remained with the town of Concord or transferred to the federal government. (Smith, 2004: 100)

Landscape Summary, 1925-1958:

By 1958, formal plantings and secondary forests covered significant acreage within the present-day North Bridge Unit. Although non-agricultural use dominated the landscape, old field patterns were still evident, marked by stone walls, fences, and hedgerows. Among the most notable structural changes was the loss of the three buildings associated with the Battle Lawn estate and construction of two contemporary residences. Other landscape changes included construction of the Monument Street parking lot and the extension of the Buttrick estate gardens into the former Battle Lawn estate. Overall, the commemorative landscape remained relatively unchanged, except for replacement of the commemorative North Bridge, routine replacement of trees within the alleé, and the growth of the hedge surrounding the circular drive around The Minute Man. (Smith, 2004: 100)



Figure 9. View southwest of the 1956 commemorative North Bridge, 1962. Also visible in the background is The Minute Man. (Photograph by Jack Boucher, 1962, HABS/HAER, #62-107, MIMA Library)



Figure 10. View south through Buttrick lower garden, c. 1930s. Note the iris growing in the garden and the Concord River in the distance. (Photograph courtesy of Stedman Buttrick IV. Photographic copy in the MIMA Library)

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (1959 - present)

On September 21, 1959, at the recommendation of the federally appointed BNHSC, Public Law 86-321 established Minute Man National Historical Park. Legislation specified Minute Man National Historical Park was created "in order to preserve for the benefit of the American people certain historic structures and properties of outstanding national significance associated with the opening War of the American Revolution."

Early Boundaries and Land Acquisition:

Prior to 1959, with few exceptions, the NPS acquired land already owned by federal or local governments, or by organizations. To assemble land within Minute Man National Historical Park, the NPS need to acquire hundreds of small tracts from individual owners. In 1960, the NPS proposed minimum park boundaries necessary to maximize protection of the historic value of the battleground. NPS staff reevaluated the proposed boundaries the following year, and in 1962 they completed the "Proposed Park Boundary Study." (Smith, 2004: 103)

Land acquisition within the North Bridge Unit began in 1962 with the purchase of the Buttrick estate, the Battle Lawn estate, Flint field, and Honeysuckle Island, all acquired from the Buttrick family. By the end of the decade, the NPS acquired over thirty-five additional acres including the Elisha Jones house, the Major John Buttrick house, Poplar Hill, Keyes pasture, the calf pasture, and the Simmons house. (Smith, 2004: 103)

In 1963, the town of Concord relinquished responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the town-owned commemorative landscape and adjacent public parking lot to the NPS through a cooperative agreement between the two entities. Concord retained title to the property and the NPS assumed responsibility for operation and maintenance of the landscape. Decisions affecting preservation, development, and interpretation of the site were to be arrived at jointly. (Smith, 2004: 103)

Early NPS Research:

Early research efforts began in 1962, initially building upon research included in the BNHSC interim report. According to a January 1963 memo from the NPS chief architect to Edwin Small, superintendent of Minute Man National Historical Park, the goal of park research was to establish 1775 land use and land ownership and to locate non-extant 1775 houses, buildings, and other man-made landscape features. (Smith, 2004: 103)

Research specific to the North Bridge Unit landscape began in the mid-1960s. NPS archeologists excavated three sites within the North Bridge Unit to locate and determine the nature of the Battle Road west of the North Bridge (1964), outbuildings on the Elisha Jones house (1965), the Thomas Brown house foundation, and house foundation(s) and wells on the Ephraim and Willard Buttrick house (1965, 1967-1968). NPS staff also researched buildings and structures through examination of historical documents, photographs, and maps. They completed four historic structure reports between 1968 and 1969 for the Elisha Jones house, the Major John Buttrick house, the Captain David Brown house, and for a wall that stood along the causeway west of the North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 104)

Master Plan:

In the fall of 1964, NPS staff from the Eastern Service Center in Philadelphia worked with park staff to develop a master plan for Minute Man National Historical Park. Approved in 1965, the plan addressed visitor use, land acquisition, site interpretation, and resource conservation. Under the heading of resource conservation, the plan specified "re-creation, management and interpretation of the historic scene to the extent possible," and "preservation of sites, buildings and objects of historic or aesthetic value whether or not they relate directly to the principal period or event which the park commemorates." (Smith, 2004: 104)

The plan also specified re-use of the Stedman Buttrick house as the North Bridge Visitor Center and construction of an eighty-car parking lot on the estate grounds. It also suggested establishing a pedestrian trail from the North Bridge to the proposed visitor center, over the route of the west branch of the Groton Road discovered during the 1964 archeological excavation mentioned above. The North Bridge Visitor Center, located within the Stedman Buttrick house, opened in June 1967. In

October 1967, layout plans for the North Bridge Visitor Center parking lot were complete. (Smith, 2004: 104)

Interim Development Plan:

Only general recommendations for both park units were included in the 1965 master plan. In December 1966, the NPS Philadelphia Planning and Service Center prepared an "Interim Development" plan for the North Bridge Unit, detailing recommendations included in the master plan (North Bridge Visitor Center and parking lot, trail from the North Bridge to the North Bridge Visitor Center), and several new recommendations not mentioned in the plan. In addition to noting extant features, the plan proposed a new information shelter and comfort station, and re-alignment of the Monument Street parking lot (Figure 11). (Smith, 2004: 104)

Planning Prior to the Bicentennial Celebration:

In 1970, park staff were directed to "plan, design, write, and present" a complete plan for interpretive programs within the park in preparation of the Bicentennial anniversary celebration. The "Interpretative Prospectus," completed in 1971, outlined three major problems within the North Bridge Unit:

1. Monument Street was a "formidable" barrier to pedestrian flow from the Monument Street parking lot to the battleground.
2. The existing comfort station (built in 1951) needed to be replaced.
3. Visitor circulation was undirected.

The 1973 "North Bridge Development Concept Plan" addressed the problems outlined in the "Interpretative Prospectus." The plan proposed solving the stated problems through a unified plan that included a well-defined pedestrian system with specific points of interest. According to the plan, direct, well-designed walks would "channel" visitors through the landscape to wayside exhibits. The plan proposed two alternatives to eliminate the barrier separating the Monument Street parking lot and the battleground. The first alternative recommended relocating Monument Street east of the Monument Street parking lot. The second alternative recommended the acquisition of two parcels south of the Old Manse (Sargent field and south field) for the construction of a new parking lot and comfort station, eliminating the need for the Monument Street parking lot. The second alternative appears to have been chosen; the two parcels were purchased by the NPS in 1973. Although the NPS never constructed the parking lot on the two parcels as planned, Sargent field serves today as an overflow parking area. (Smith, 2004: 106)

Bicentennial Celebration:

Cooperative planning between the town of Concord and NPS staff began over a decade before the Bicentennial celebration. Town officials requested that the celebration be broader in scope than previous contemporary celebrations, but to ensure the overcrowding experienced of the 1875 Centennial celebration was not repeated, the size of the celebration needed to be consistent with current facilities and space. They also requested a "simple and non-political" program, with "emphasis on the principles for which the battle was fought." The celebration would include a processional to the battleground, as had been a tradition since the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in 1850, and an address by President Gerald Ford at the eastern abutment of the 1956 commemorative North Bridge. (Smith, 2004: 106)

Of great concern to the town was a request from the People's Bicentennial Committee (PBC) to hold an economic protest during the celebration. The town worried about the political implications of the protest and also that its projected size would threaten their efforts to limit the scale of the celebration. Despite objections from town officials, the park superintendent granted the PBC a permit to present its program on the hillside west of the bridge. Handwritten notations found on a copy of the 1966 "Interim Development" plan mentioned above appear to depict the intended or actual locations of temporary PBC program amenities including toilets, a stage, and a "soup kitchen." Despite rain, an estimated seventy-five thousand people attended the heavily policed celebration and demonstration. (Smith, 2004: 108)

1980s North Bridge Improvements:

In the early 1980s, the NPS improved two existing features associated with the commemorative landscape and replaced a third. The first project modified the Monument Street parking lot. While the general design of the parking lot was retained, the NPS added curbing and redesigned the lanes to provide additional parking spaces. Also rehabilitated during this period was the stone wall between the parking lot and Monument Street. The third project replaced the original toilet facility, constructed in 1951 just north of the Monument Street parking lot. Known today as the North Bridge comfort station, the NPS constructed the facility on the opposite side of Monument Street in the southeast corner of the Simmons house lot, adjacent to the battleground entrance. (Smith, 2004: 109)

Harvard Design Study:

In 1984, the park awarded a contract to Harvard University's Graduate School of Design to fund a studio project to investigate alternative long-range development plans for Minute Man National Historical Park. The study, titled *Alternative Futures for Minute Man National Park*, was a precursor to the park's 1989 General Management Plan. The study proposed three different alternatives, with varying levels of landscape restoration and manipulation. The first alternative proposed selectively restoring four zones within the park, including a portion of the North Bridge Unit; the second proposed recreating as much of the 1775 landscape as practical; and the third proposed preserving and restoring a continuum of landscapes, from 1775 to present. (Smith, 2004: 109)

General Management Plan:

The park completed a General Management Plan (GMP) in 1989. The plan replaced the 1965 master plan as the park's guiding management document. The document recommends protecting historic resources and approximating the cultural landscape of 1775. Goals outlined in the GMP for the North Bridge Unit include preserving the commemorative character of the Unit, maximizing the quality of the visitor experience, and managing the length of stay within the Unit to reduce overcrowding. Specific recommendations for the North Bridge Unit include:

1. Integrating the Muster Field and the Major John Buttrick house into the interpretative story.
2. Developing a walking trail between the center of town and the North Bridge Unit.
3. Limit canoe landings to a specified location.

The plan outlines a treatment plan for cultural resources within the park. The treatment plan recommends preserving the Elisha Jones house, the Major John Buttrick house, and the Stedman Buttrick house, caretaker's house, and carriage house. It states the Muster Field and known archeological sites should be protected, and yet to be discovered archeological sites, such as the John Flint site, should be located. The plan does not specifically address other cultural resources such as roads, vegetation, monuments and markers, and stone walls.

1990-2006, Plans and Projects:

Two plans prepared by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in the 1990s addressed landscape issues within the avenue leading to the North Bridge and the circular drive around The Minute Man. The "Erosion Control and Shade Tree Management Plan prepared in 1993 provided treatment recommendations to rehabilitate the character of the alleé and to stabilize the surface of the avenue leading to the North Bridge. The second study completed in 1999 provided construction drawings detailing proposed changes, including re-grading the landform under The Minute Man and stone wall repair. (Smith, 2004: 110)

In 2004, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation completed a Cultural Landscape Report for the North Bridge Unit and the Historic Architecture Program completed a Historic Structures Report for the North Bridge. Both reports were prepared to guide proposed resource treatment included within plans prepared by Childs Engineering Corporation and Carol R. Johnson Associates Inc (CRJA) and accepted by the park in 2004. The line-item construction project addressed issues of safety, circulation, erosion, and historic landscape character. In 2004, portions of the commemorative North Bridge, including the handrails and decking, were replaced. As constructed, the replaced sections closely resemble the original 1956 design. Landscape rehabilitation completed since 2004 includes removal of secondary brush and forest vegetation in six fields; planting of replacement trees in the historic alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge; rehabilitation of bases of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man; repair of The Minute Man enclosure fence,

and re-grading of portions of the avenue leading to the North Bridge, the circle drive around The Minute Man, and the Groton Road trail (Figures 12-13). Removal of the secondary growth has improved the character of the historic landscape by revealing historically open fields, stone walls, and a stone-lined drainage swale. The recent changes have improved the character of the commemorative landscape and provided safer visitor access throughout the landscape.

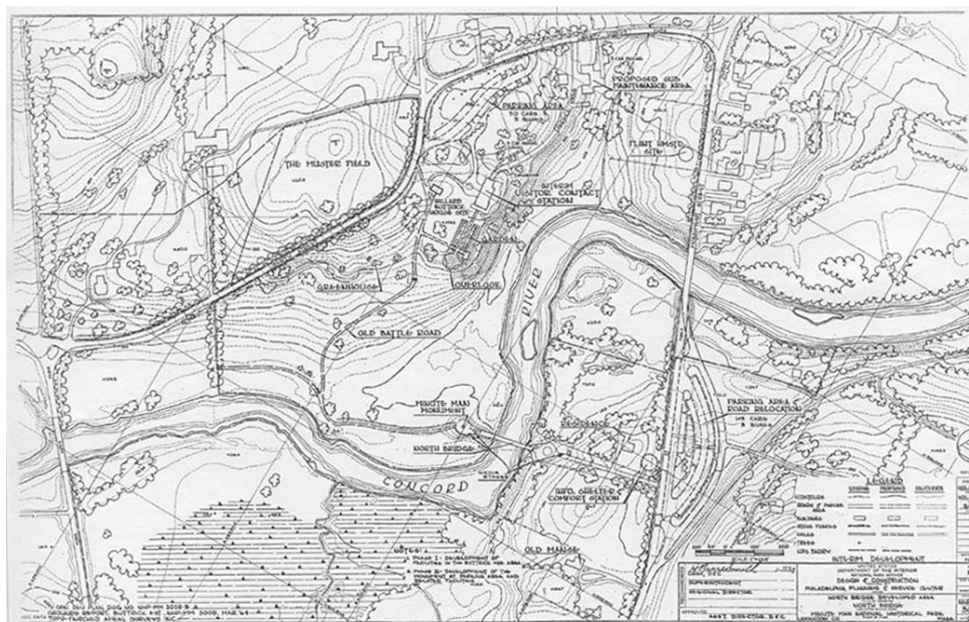


Figure 11. NPS “Interim Development” plan – North Bridge Development Area,” 1966. (NPS, Northeast Region, Planning and Partnerships Office)



Figure 12. View west of the Muster Field after tree removal, December 2004. (OCLP)



Figure 13. View west of the Battle Monument during re-grading of the avenue leading to the North Bridge and rehabilitation of the monument base, June 2005. (OCLP)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	No	No	No
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Estate Landscape	Estate Landscape	No	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Wayside Exhibit	No	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status:

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the landscape's physical integrity by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance with current conditions. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing, non-contributing, or undetermined to the landscape's overall historic significance. For those features that are listed as undetermined further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's original date. Contributing characteristics or features were either present during the period of significance or are in-kind replacements of such historic elements. Landscape characteristics identified for the North Bridge Unit are spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites.

The existing North Bridge Unit landscape reflects changing land use patterns since 1775. Features associated with the battle at the North Bridge include site topography, the Concord River, colonial houses, and archeological sites (house foundation and road surfaces). Recently opened fields add to the character of the eighteenth century battlefield and re-open battleground views. Agriculture was the primary land use in the North Bridge Unit at the time of the battle. By the turn of the twentieth-century, the amount of land under agricultural production had substantially decreased. Extant agricultural landscape features include open, wet meadows, fruit trees, roads, stone walls, houses, and barn foundations. Missing are additional houses, barns, outbuildings, cultivated fields, farm animals, orchards, and small houselot gardens.

By 1875, major battleground positions were overlaid by commemorative land use. Commemorative features added to the landscape include the Battle Monument and The Minute Man, several smaller monuments and markers, an avenue and circle drive, an allée, stone walls, and iron fencing. A central feature since 1874 has been a commemorative North Bridge, constructed at the site of the North Bridge extant in 1775. The current North Bridge (constructed in 1956 and rehabilitated in 2005) is the fourth commemorative bridge since 1874. All major features of the commemorative landscape developed since the 1830s are extant, with the exception of the earlier commemorative bridges.

Two suburban estate landscapes, developed between 1880 and 1940, overlaid colonial and British positions prior to the commencement of the battle. Development of the two estates, which primarily served as residences for Boston businessmen (who were descendants of colonists who fought during the 1775 battle) occupied a large portion of former agricultural land north of the Concord River within the North Bridge Unit. Estate features developed included two large houses; a stable or carriage house; a caretaker's or gardener's house; entrance and service drives; specimen trees and shrubs; and formal gardens – the most extensive gardens developed within the Buttrick estate. The Buttrick estate, initially developed in the 1910s, retains the greatest number of landscape features, including three original buildings, the entrance and service drive, specimen trees and shrubs, and formal gardens. All that remains of the Battle Lawn estate (c. 1880s – 1920s) is a stone wall with formal entrance, an entrance drive, topographical changes associated with estate development, and several specimen trees and shrubs.

This section also includes an evaluation of the properties integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined in National Register Bulletin 30, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for the site to retain its historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

The North Bridge Unit retains overall integrity in the areas of military, commemoration, agriculture, and landscape architecture. For the battleground landscape, the site retains integrity with respect to location, setting, feeling, and association. Although constructed features directly associated with the battleground are no longer evident within the landscape, some remain as archeological sites, such as the causeway and portions of the Groton Road. Also extant are several colonial houses that witnessed troop movements. The one aspect of integrity slightly compromised is that of feeling since mature trees and shrubs associated with the estate landscapes, and stone walls along Liberty Street obscure views between the battleground and the Muster Field.

The addition of commemorative monuments and the 1956 commemorative North Bridge also affect the battleground's aspect of feeling.

For the commemorative landscape, the site retains integrity with respect to all seven aspects of integrity. The site has maintained its basic configuration developed 1836 to 1875 and most of its original features including the alleé, the Battle Monument, the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers, and The Minute Man. More contemporary features that contribute to the commemorative landscape include the 1956 commemorative North Bridge and the Concord Fight Marker.

In association with its agricultural landscape, the site retains integrity in the areas of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. Extant agricultural features include houses, stone walls, open fields, remnant orchards, and narrow tree-lined roads. Two aspects of integrity - design and materials - are both compromised by secondary brush and trees that have altered the agricultural organization of the site and the character of its fields. Field clearings since 2004 have significantly improved the agricultural character of the landscape several areas.

In the area of landscape architecture, the Buttrick estate landscapes retain all seven aspects of integrity. Several aspects of integrity including design, materials, and feeling have been slightly compromised by the addition of the North Bridge Visitor Center parking lot and by vegetative changes within the formal gardens.

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition:

In 1775, the landscape was spatially organized by property boundaries, roads, farm lanes, stone walls, fences, and differing agricultural land uses, as well as by natural features such as the Concord River, Mill Creek, wetlands, and topography. Although land use varied, all spaces supported an agrarian economy. Small areas, such as gardens and orchards, were often found adjacent to houses. Larger pastures, tillage fields, and meadows were typically located a distance from the house. Late eighteenth-century road changes significantly altered the spatial organization of the landscape surrounding the North Bridge. The construction of Liberty Street and the extension of present-day Monument Street and Lowell Road further divided 1775 meadows, fields, and pastures. Although no longer a through way after the removal of the North Bridge in 1793, Groton Road west of the bridge site remained a dividing line on the landscape into the nineteenth century. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, suburban estate development along Liberty Street replaced portions of the spatial organization based on agricultural use with formal landscapes and gardens spatially organized for human enjoyment.

The spatial organization of the commemorative landscape adjacent to the North Bridge reflects the linear organization of the battleground. While a few men from both sides shot from neighboring fields, most of the battle was fought by British and colonial troops aligned on Groton Road, facing each other from opposite sides of the North Bridge. Ezra Ripley donated a linear parcel of land to the town in the mid-1830s that included a portion of the eighteenth-century Groton Road, east of the bridge site. The Battle Monument was placed on this parcel near the site of the North Bridge, and then the 1874 commemorative North Bridge and The Minute Man were both placed in general alignment with the earlier monument. Double rows of trees planted along stone walls flanking the nineteenth-century avenue leading to the North Bridge reinforce the linear organization of the landscape.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, suburban estate development along Liberty Street replaced portions of the agricultural spatial organization with formal landscapes and gardens spatially organized for human enjoyment.

Formal plantings visually separated the Battle Lawn estate from neighboring properties to the west (row of deciduous trees), to the east (row of evergreens), and to the north (trees along Liberty Street). Stone walls and a wire fence (eastern border) physically separated the same boundaries. Internally, the landscape was divided into two distinct spaces: a formal landscape (trees, shrubs, flower garden) primarily situated along the estate drive and north of the mansion, and an agricultural field south of the mansion, leading to the edge of the river.

The landscape associated with the Buttrick estate consisted of a series of outdoor spaces divided and enclosed by drives, paths, mature trees, walls, and hedges. Spaces included enclosed gardens as well as expansive lawns. Routes connecting the spaces radiated from the Stedman Buttrick house, the focal point of the landscape. Two prominent garden spaces developed before 1925, the upper (rectangular) and the lower (circular) gardens, were aligned with the southern façade of the house. A third garden walk leading to and beyond a rectangular swimming pool (constructed after 1943) connected at a right angle to a walk separating the two gardens mentioned above. Other organizing and connecting lines were less rigid. A large lawn dotted by mature trees extended north of the house, between the curved Buttrick estate service drive and Liberty Street. West of the original bounds of the estate, a garden walk leading past the swimming pool curved to approach the front of the former Battle Lawn mansion purchased by Stedman Buttrick III in 1926.

Existing Condition:

By 2004, secondary brush and tree growth had covered large sections of the landscape, significantly altering the ability to read the landscape's historic agricultural spatial organization. Since 2004, secondary growth has been removed from six fields, several of which played important roles during the battle at the North Bridge in 1775. Removal of the vegetation has revealed important battlefield views, historic field patterns, stone walls, and a stone-lined drainage swale. Overlying the 1775 landscape are features defining the historic spatial organization of the commemorative and estate landscapes. The commemorative landscape retains all of its significant

spatial organizing features including the avenue leading to the North Bridge, the allée, the commemorative North Bridge, and the monuments. Features associated with the Battle Lawn and Buttrick estates include buildings, estate drives, gardens and formal plantings, paths, stone and brick walls, hedges, and trees enclosing gardens and other spaces within the landscapes.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition:

Building construction, road construction, and agricultural practices since 1635 have resulted in minor changes to the topography and hydrology of the North Bridge Unit. Construction of houses, barns, and other farm building foundations required alteration of the landforms, as did the construction and subsequent improvement of roads. Hillside erosion, caused by continual crop production, moved layers of topsoil to lower elevations and lowland farming required the construction of man-made drains. All of these factors influenced the hydrology of the site and possibly altered the flow and configuration of the Concord River.

Existing Condition:

Altered topography is evident throughout the landscape. Building foundations uncovered by archeologists depict the footprints of eighteenth and nineteenth century building foundations. Stone walls provide evidence of raised roadbeds, their roadside surfaces partially or entirely covered by deposited soil. An NPS archeological investigation of Groton Road in 1965 concluded a protective layer of soil on the well-preserved section of the road resulted from erosion caused by hillside plowing. Several narrow swales or ditches in Sargent field (west of the overflow parking area) suggest man-made construction. While it is probable the Concord River configuration has changed at least slightly since the colonial period, such alterations were not discovered in research materials examined.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Buttrick estate topographic alterations	113332	Contributing					No
Battle Lawn topographic alterations	113334	Contributing					No
Landform under The Minute Man	113336	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition:

According to an historic grounds report prepared in 1985, most or all of the native forest within the North Bridge Unit had been cleared for agricultural use by 1775. (Malcolm, 1985) Types of agricultural vegetation in 1775 included wet meadows, tilled fields, pasture, and orchards. Agricultural use of the landscape continued into the nineteenth century and then began tapering off in the early twentieth century.

In the 1838, the town of Concord planted a formal allée of trees along the avenue leading to the site of the North Bridge (removed in 1793). Tree species included elm, buttonwood, maple, white oak, larch, fir, pine, ash, hickory and hornbeam. The town of Concord and the NPS have subsequently replaced trees within the allée several times in the last 168 years.

Edwin Barrett and Stedman Buttrick II constructed estates overlooking the battlefield, beginning in 1879 and 1911 respectively. Both men were descendents of colonials who had fought at the bridge. Both estates included a formal landscape consisting of ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and lawns. By the 1930s, extensive formal gardens associated with the Buttrick estate included over 200 varieties of iris.

By the mid-1900s, secondary brush and tree growth began to cover former agricultural land. Aerial photographs from the 1950s depict scattered remnant orchards in several places within the Unit. By 2004, over 75% of the landscape was covered by secondary growth.

Existing Condition:

Since 2004, the NPS has removed secondary growth from six former agricultural fields, significantly improving the agricultural character of the historic landscape. About 60% of the landscape remains covered by secondary growth. Mature fruit trees are also present in several locations, possibly remnants of historic orchards. The allée of trees remains as a strong visual line bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge. Several replacement trees were planted in 2005. Remnants of the Battle Lawn and Buttrick estate landscapes remain. Mature ornamental trees and shrubs are found on both properties, the largest collection located on the Buttrick estate. Although uncultivated for a number of years, the extensive gardens of the Buttrick estate still support a collection of perennial and bulbs plants, including a several varieties of iris.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Open fields	109130	Contributing			Asset	35075	No
Mature trees bordering fields	109132	Contributing					No
Mature trees on houselots	109134	Contributing			Asset	1133083	No
Remnant orchards	109136	Contributing					No
Secondary brush and forest	109138	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Allée	109140	Contributing			Asset	1133092	No
Double row of arborvitae	109142	Undetermined			Asset	1133093	Yes
Estate ornamental vegetation	109144	Contributing			Asset	1133095	Yes



View east of mature fruit trees on the Old Manse property, July 2002. (OCLP)



View east of the alleé bordering the avenue leading to the North Bridge, August 2002. (OCLP)



View south of the Buttrick estate upper garden, May 2006. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition:

By 1654, although probably much earlier, the town constructed a simple wooden bridge, known as North Bridge, across the Concord River. The bridge connected farm ways and paths west side of the river with roads east side of the river leading to Concord center. In 1699, Concord formally laid the way crossing the North Bridge as Groton Road. After crossing the bridge, the Groton Road forked to the east and to the west, re-joined outside the present-day Battle Road Unit. The original North Bridge was replaced every twenty-years or so, because of severe damage resulting from spring flooding. The bridge that stood at the time of the battle in 1775 was built in 1760.

In 1788, the town replaced the historic bridge, and in 1793 the town constructed a new bridge downstream from the North Bridge, known as Flint's Bridge. Construction of the new bridge redirected traffic across the Concord River, making use of the North Bridge and Groton Road west of the bridge (within the North Bridge Unit) obsolete. The bridge was razed in 1793 and land within the abandoned roadways reverted to private ownership. To cross Flint's Bridge, the town connected two pre-existing roads to form present-day Monument Street. Also constructed around the same time was present-day Liberty Street, which connected Monument Street with present-day Lowell Road. Lowell Road lead north and south, and crossed the Concord River over the Red Bridge (later known as Hunt's Bridge), constructed in 1792.

In the mid-1830s, Ezra Ripley (Old Manse property) donated the section of discontinued Groton Road east of the Concord River to the town of Concord. The parcel provided a location for the Battle Monument (near the river) and access to the monument from Monument Street. In 1874, the town built a commemorative bridge across the Concord River just west of the Battle Monument. The new bridge allowed vehicles and pedestrians to cross the river to view The Minute Man. The town constructed a circular drive around The Minute Man, as tourists were not permitted to drive on private land west of the statue. Photographic evidence suggests a portion of the historic Groton Road may still have been in use on private land west of the bridge.

Development of the Battle Lawn and Buttrick estate necessitated construction of entrance and service drives. Also developed on the Buttrick estate was an extensive network of garden paths and stairways. In the 1940s, construction of a garden path connected the Stedman Buttrick house to the Battle Lawn mansion (known then as Overlea), both owned at the time by the Buttrick family.

Operation of the historic site as a national park required construction of a visitor center parking lot. Also developed was the Groton Road trail, which connects the commemorative landscape to the Stedman Buttrick house (North Bridge Visitor Center). The trail follows the approximate route of the west branch of the Groton Road. As part of the line-item construction project In 2004, to paths were built as part of a line item construction project: a path was constructed from the North Bridge Visitor Center to the front door of the Major John Buttrick house, and a path connecting the Buttrick estate service drive to the Buttrick estate entrance drive.

Existing Condition:

Existing circulation features include the public road system (Liberty and Monument Streets) dating to the 1790s, commemorative circulation features from the mid-1830s to the 1875, estate circulation features developed from 1879-1940s, and NPS features.

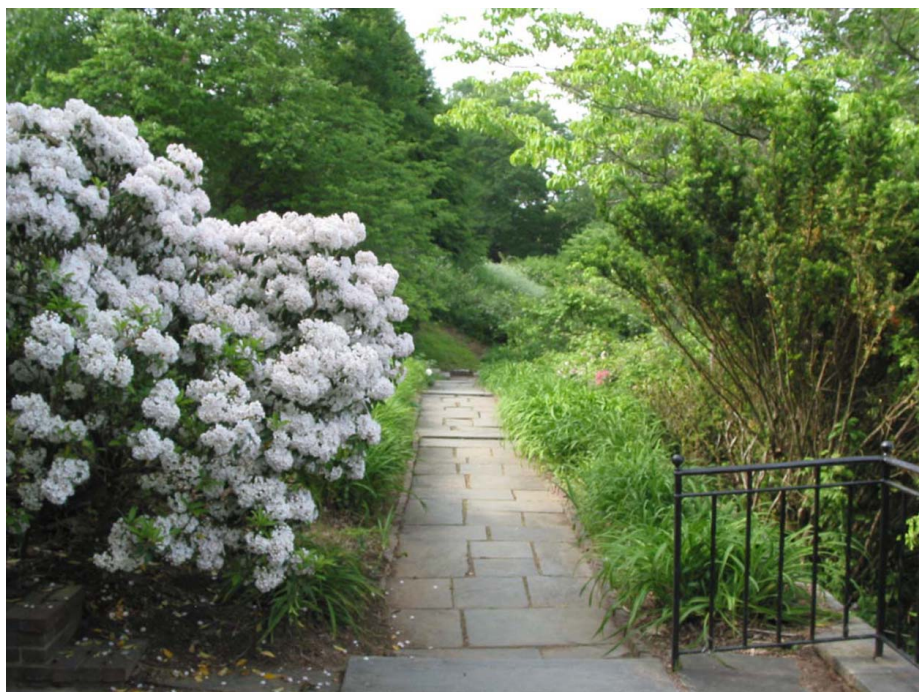
Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Monument Street	109178	Contributing					No
Monument Street parking lot	109180	Contributing			Location	63963	Yes
Avenue leading to the North Bridge	109182	Contributing	040215		Location	63938	Yes
Circular drive around The Minute Man	109184	Contributing			Location	106894	No
Groton Road trail	109192	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Liberty Street	109194	Contributing					No
Buttrick estate entrance drive	109196	Contributing			Asset	1133064	No
Buttrick estate service drive	109200	Contributing			Location	105084	Yes
Path between Buttrick estate drives	109204	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Buttrick estate garden paths	109206	Contributing			Asset	1133065	No
North Bridge Visitor Center parking lot	109208	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	63961	Yes
Battle Lawn entrance drive	109210	Contributing					No
Path to Major John Buttrick house	109734	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View west of Liberty Street and the Major John Buttrick house, July 2002. (OCLP)



View north of Buttrick garden hillside path, June 2005. (OCLP)



View north of the Groton Road trail, August 2002. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition:

By 1775, six houselots were located within the North Bridge Unit. Each would have included a house, an outhouse, and one or more outbuildings. Four of the six houselots were located north of the Concord River. By 1924, only three of the houses extant in 1775 remained. The landscape north of the river was dominated by buildings associated with the Battle Lawn (1879) and the Buttrick estates (1911), which included two large houses, a gardener's cottage and stable (Battle Lawn) and a caretaker's house and carriage house (Buttrick estate). Additional buildings extant in 1924 included several boathouses along the Concord River, newer barns and outbuildings associated with the three remaining houses extant in 1775, and the Simmons/Tanner house adjacent to the commemorative landscape.

Also extant was the 1909 commemorative North Bridge. This bridge was the third commemorative bridge to have stood at the location of the historic North Bridge. Concord built the first commemorative bridge in 1874 and the second in 1889. Spring flooding severely damaged both of these bridges, necessitating their replacement. In 1956, a fourth commemorative bridge replaced the 1909 commemorative bridge.

Existing Condition:

Three extant buildings in the North Bridge Unit date to 1775: the Elisha Jones house, Old Manse, and Major John Buttrick house. Additional contributing buildings and structures include the 1956 commemorative North Bridge and the Stedman Buttrick house, carriage house, and caretaker's house. Buildings associated with the Battle Lawn estate landscape were moved or razed c. 1925-1953. Today, the Stedman Buttrick house services as park office space and the North Bridge Visitor Center. The Buttrick caretaker's house and garage are used as storage space for the park's library and archives, as park office space, and as the park maintenance facility. The Major John Buttrick house is used for special meetings and events and the Elisha Jones house is rented as a private residence. The Old Manse is owned and operated by the Trustees of the Reservations as a house museum.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Elisha Jones house	109216	Contributing	000924		Location	6397	Yes
Old Manse	109224	Contributing					No
Old Manse outbuildings	109226	Undetermined					No
Old Manse boathouse	109234	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
North Bridge	109236	Contributing	000945		Location	63960	Yes
Major John Buttrick garage	109244	Noncontributing – Compatible	040235		Location	63673	Yes
Major John Buttrick house	109248	Contributing	000932		Location	63671	Yes
Buttrick caretaker's cottage	109252	Contributing	040025		Location	63676	Yes
Stedman Buttrick house	109256	Contributing	040024		Location	63675	Yes
North Bridge comfort station	109270	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	63964	Yes
Buttrick carriage house	109274	Contributing	040026		Location	63935	Yes
Elisha Jones shed	109278	Contributing	040240		Location	63972	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View east of the Elisha Jones house, 2002. (OCLP)



View east of the Stedman Buttrick house, 2002. (OCLP)



View southwest of the 1956 commemorative North Bridge, after restoration in 2005. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic:

Views and Vistas

Historic Condition:

The openness of the 1775 landscape allowed expansive views across the battleground, and from the battleground to the center of town. Colonial and British soldiers in the vicinity of the North Bridge on April 19, 1775 were within view of each other, as they maneuvered and positioned themselves within the landscape. As colonials gathered on Captain David Brown's cow pasture (Muster Field) they spied smoke rising from the center of town, sparking the battle at the North Bridge. For most of the nineteenth century, continued farming protected major views across the battleground.

Vegetation associated with the commemorative landscape began to subtly change views across the battleground. In 1838, local citizens planted double rows of trees along the avenue leading to the Battle Monument, and by the early 1900s a few small trees and shrubs encircled the base of the quarter-acre landform under The Minute Man. By the 1920s, a low Japanese barberry hedge flanked by a taller deciduous hedge bordered the circular drive around The Minute Man. The tall hedge blocked views west from the statue. Remnants of the barberry hedge survived into the 1990s.

Formal plantings associated with the Battle Lawn estate and the Buttrick estate in the late 1800s and early 1900s also shortened views across the battleground. Both estates planted specimen trees along Liberty Street and around the houses. By the early 1900s, a line of mature evergreens planted in the 1880s along the boundary of the two estates blocked views between the commemorative landscape and Liberty Street. Aerial photographs indicate the row of evergreens was removed between 1943 and 1954; however, the view continued to be blocked by the maturing specimen trees planted on both estates.

Historic photographs depict an open view from the Battle Lawn mansion across the Concord River. Views from the Buttrick estate are noted on the 1923 "Preliminary Plan of Gardens" for Stedman Buttrick, prepared by Landscape Architect Harold Hill Blossom. Blossom identifies important views east from the upper garden towards the Concord River and views south and southeast from the lower garden overlook "of meadows of river and church towers" (see Figure 8, Physical History). Included in the view from the lower garden would have been the 1909 commemorative North Bridge, the Battle Monument, and The Minute Man. Photographs from the 1950s and 1960s indicate views remained open from the house and the gardens to the river and the commemorative landscape until at least the mid-twentieth century (Figures 148-149).

Existing Condition:

By 2004, secondary brush and tree growth had covered large sections of the landscape, significantly altering views across the battlefield. Since 2004, secondary growth removal along the river and in historic fields surrounding the North Bridge has opened up key battlefield views. Although select removal of Buttrick estate vegetation has re-opened a view of the Muster Field from the Stedman Buttrick house (North Bridge Visitor Center), the view of the historically significant field from the North Bridge remains blocked by Battle Lawn and Buttrick estate vegetation.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View across the river from the bridge	109288	Contributing					No
View of the Muster Field from the bridge	109294	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View across the battlefield from the Buttrick overlook before field restoration, August 2002. (OCLP)



View across the battlefield from the Buttrick overlook after field restoration, June 2004. (MIMA)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition:

According to an historic grounds report completed in 1985 (Malcolm, 1985), by 1775 a network of stone walls and wooden fences criss-crossed the present-day Battle Road Unit, enclosing fields and defining property boundaries. Early stone walls were generally a simple arrangement of stones placed for utilitarian purposes. By the mid- to late-nineteenth century, stone walls along Liberty and Monument Street became more elaborate. Construction styles included well-shaped stones carefully set with or without mortar. The top of these walls were often capped with large, flat stones. Additional constructed stone features known to have existed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included stone wellheads located on several houselots and stone culverts under Liberty Street.

Placement of commemorative landscape features in the landscape dates to the nineteenth-century. In 1836 the town of Concord erected the Battle Monument on the east side of the Concord River, the side where British Regulars fought during the battle at the North Bridge. In 1875, the town erected The Minute Man on the opposite side of the river, the colonial position during the battle. Also placed by the town in time for the one-hundredth anniversary of the battle was a monument within the stone wall adjacent to the grave of the British soldiers. Reportedly, two small stones (still extant in 1875) were placed over the grave soon after the soldiers were buried. In 1910, the original stone monument within the wall above the grave was replaced with a new monument. In 1885, Concord placed the Muster Field Monument within a wall along Liberty Street, identifying the location where colonials gathered prior to the battle at the North Bridge. Twentieth-century commemorative landscape features include the John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument (1915, placed in a wall along Liberty Street), a large wooden sign titled "Concord Fight" (1925, replaced by a granite marker in 1955, today known as the Concord Fight Marker), and the Captain Isaac Davis Plaque (1975). Two additional markers believed to have been placed in the landscape in the early 1900s are the granite Mile Marker and the granite Line of March Marker.

Small-scale features associated with the monuments and markers include The Minute Man enclosure fence and the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers fence. The Minute Man enclosure fence originally stood around the base of Battle Monument and at the front entrance to the commemorative landscape, along Monument Street. The town placed the chain-link fence around the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers in 1877.

Treatment of the bases of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man changed several times. Both monuments originally stood on a circular, grassy mound about three to four feet high. An iron fence, as mentioned above, originally encircled the Battle Monument. In c. 1875 the town placed four small granite "corner buffers" around both monument bases. The monument bases were significantly changed in 1909. The town squared the base of both monuments and installed concrete curbing. In 1958, granite curbing replaced the concrete curbing. Installed at the same time were granite steps up the eastern side of the mound under the Battle Monument and a pair of rectangular granite slabs on the east and west sides of the mound under The Minute Man. These features were added to protect the mounds from erosion caused by visitors standing adjacent to the monuments to have their pictures taken. Unfortunately, the granite features did not protect the integrity of the monument bases. By 2004, the condition of both bases was very poor. Erosion had exposes buried sections of the monuments and portions of the granite base treatments needed to be reset. In 2005, both bases were refurbished. The granite features were dismantled, the mounds regarded, and the features reset.

All but a few sections of the original granite features were re-used. The pairs of rectangular granite slabs located on both sides of The Minute Man were replaced by a single larger rectangular slab. Also rehabilitated in 2005 was The Minute Man enclosure fence. The iron fence was dismantled, repaired and repainted, and reset in its original position.

Existing Condition:

Thirty-six stone wall sections have been identified within the North Bridge Unit. Based on

information included in a 1985 historic grounds report, a few walls appear to be in the same locations as walls extant at the time of the battle. (Malcolm, 1985) It is not known if they date to 1775. Wall types found within the Unit include thrown walls (simple arrangement of stones) and laid wall (well-shaped stones carefully set together with smaller stones). Both of these types of walls are also found as either free-standing walls or as retaining walls. Some of the retaining walls were constructed as such. Others, particularly those found along Monument Street and Liberty Street may have resulted from the raising or lowering of road beds.

Also extant are five stone wellheads located on the Major John Buttrick house, the Elisha Jones house, and at the site of the Ephraim and Willard Buttrick house (in front of the Stedman Buttrick house). A large rectangular stone slab is also located at the Elisha Jones house, which is possibly a portion of a row of stepping stones located on top of the causeway located west of the North Bridge in the eighteenth century.

Two stone culverts under Liberty Street date to 1901-1902.

Extant commemorative features include the Battle Monument, The Minute Man, the Grave and Monument to the British Soldiers (and two small stones believe to have been placed on the grave in 1775), the Muster Field Monument, the John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument, the Concord Fight Marker, the Captain Isaac Davis Plaque, the granite Mile Marker, and the granite Line of March Marker. Additional extant features associated with the markers include granite features around the base of the Battle Monument and The Minute Man; The Minute Man enclosure fence; and the Grave and Monument to British Soldiers fence.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Stone wall (W-07)	109318	Contributing	040195		Asset	34996	No
Stone wall (W-08)	109320	Contributing	040195		Asset	34996	No
Stone wall (W-09)	109322	Contributing			Asset	34994	No
Stone wall (W-10)	109324	Contributing			Asset	34994	No
Stone wall (W-11)	109326	Contributing	040214		Asset	34994	No
Stone wall (W-12)	109328	Contributing	040205		Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-13)	109330	Contributing	040205		Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-14)	109332	Contributing					No
Stone wall (W-15)	109334	Contributing			Asset	1133080	Yes
Stone wall (W-01)	109306	Contributing					No
Stone wall (W-02)	109308	Contributing			Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-03)	109310	Contributing					No
Stone wall (W-04)	109312	Contributing			Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-05)	109314	Contributing			Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-17)	109338	Contributing	040205		Asset	34991	No
Stone wall (W-18)	109340	Contributing	040211		Asset	34993	No
Stone wall (W-19)	109342	Contributing	040211		Asset	34993	No
Stone wall (W-20)	109344	Contributing	040205		Asset	34991	No

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Stone wall (W-21)	109346	Contributing			Asset	34992	No
Stone wall (W-23)	109350	Contributing	040188		Asset	34999	No
Stone wall (W-24)	109352	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-25)	109354	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-26)	109356	Contributing			Asset	1133078	No
Stone wall (W-29)	109362	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-30)	109364	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-31)	109366	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-32)	109368	Contributing	040200		Asset	34986	No
Stone wall (W-34)	109372	Contributing	040171		Asset	34998	Yes
Battle Monument	109376	Contributing	006543		Location	63959	No
Grave and Monument to British Soldiers	109378	Contributing	006544		Location	63957	Yes
Concord Fight Marker	109380	Contributing	040261		Location	63958	Yes
The Minute Man	109382	Contributing	006545		Location	63956	No
John Buttrick Bas-Relief Monument	109386	Contributing	040260		Location	63939	Yes
Granite Mile Marker	109388	Contributing			Location	63944	Yes
Granite Line of March Marker	109390	Contributing			Location	63945	Yes
Muster Field Monument	109392	Contributing	040266		Location	63941	Yes
Major John Buttrick wellheads	109400	Contributing					No
Elisha Jones wellhead	109402	Contributing	040197		Location	63973	Yes
Ephraim and Willard Buttrick wellheads	109404	Contributing					No
Culvert on east end of Liberty Street	109406	Contributing	040250		Location	64823	No
Culvert on west end of Liberty Street	109408	Contributing	040250		Location	64823	No
The Minute Man enclosure fence	109412	Contributing	040204		Location	63966	Yes
Grave and Monument to British Soldiers f	109414	Contributing			Location	63957	No
Base of the Battle Monument	109416	Contributing			Location	63959	No
Base of The Minute Man	109418	Contributing			Location	63956	No
Stone wall (W-36)	113330	Contributing					No
Waysides	109394	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Granite archeological site markers	109396	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

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Captain Isaac Davis Plaque	109384	Noncontributing – Compatible	040262		Location	63955	Yes
Stone wall (W-27)	109358	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1133078	No
Stone wall (W-28)	109360	Undetermined	040188		Asset	34999	No
Stone wall (W-35)	109374	Undetermined					No
Stone slab – Elisha Jones house	109398	Undetermined					No
Stone wall (W-22)	109348	Undetermined			Asset	34992	No
Garden retaining walls (W-06)	109316	Undetermined	040196		Asset	1007987	Yes
Stone wall (W-16)	109336	Undetermined	040205		Asset	34991	No
Stone marker on Liberty Street	109410	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View west of The Minute Man and statue base, August 2005. (OCLP)



Grave and Monument to British Soldier fence, August 2005. (OCLP)



The Minute Man enclosure fence, August 2005. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Extant archeological sites include above ground building foundations (Keyes barn foundation, Joseph Derby barn foundation), excavated and exposed building foundations (Ephraim an Willard Buttrick house site, Thomas Brown house site), and excavated sites that have been re-covered. Sites in the last category include building locations (Thomas Flint site) and portions of the Groton Road (Groton Road sites east and west of the North Bridge and the Jonas Bateman site).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Keyes barn foundation	109420	Contributing		MIMA00067.000	Location	104117	Yes
Thomas Flint site	109422	Contributing					No
Joseph Derby barn foundation	109424	Contributing	040249		Location	63938	Yes
Ephraim and Willard Buttrick house site	109426	Contributing	000939	MIMA00032.000	Location	63942	Yes
Groton Road site, west of the North Brid	109428	Contributing					No
Groton Road site, east of the North Brid	109430	Undetermined					No
Captain David Brown house foundation	109432	Contributing	014011	MIMA00033.000	Location	63953	Yes
Jonas Bateman site	109434	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View southwest of the Ephraim and Willard Buttrick house foundation, 2002. (OCLP)

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/16/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/16/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/05/2022

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update, in cooperation with the Historic Structures Inventory, is underway.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/18/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consultation with Terrie Wallace, Museum Curator, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the North Bridge Unit landscape is currently in good condition. The definition of "good" is as follows: "the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition."

The main concern cited in the previous assessment was the Buttrick area. Stabilization work was completed in the designed landscape in 2010 (PMIS 135797). Work on the ARRA-funded project, "Rehabilitate Garden Features and Historic Field at Buttrick House (multiple projects)" (PMIS 135582) is nearing completion. According to the update in PMIS from July 2012, construction is substantially completed for repair of garden hardscape features. Garden clearing and planting is also substantially completed, and pruning will take place in the garden over the winter and into the spring. Most of the fields targeted for restoration have also been completed.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/22/2006

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Corrective action within 3-5 years is necessary to stabilize the historic Buttrick estate gardens. If appropriate corrective action is not taken, significant character-defining features within the garden will be severely compromised or lost. The remaining portions of the North Bridge landscape are in good condition, based on recent work completed in 2004 as part of a line item construction project.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Erosion is a continual concern along the banks of the Concord River, and in sloping areas (such as earthen roads and paths) not covered by vegetation. Recent landscape fabric installation and plantings around the quarter-acre landform under The Minute Man and re-grading of the avenue leading to the North Bridge and the Groton Road trail have helped to mitigate the erosion.

Date Identified: 09/21/2006

Type of Impact: Flooding

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Spring flooding of the Concord River continually impacts the condition of the North Bridge and the earthen road west of the bridge. The footings of the current North Bridge were constructed of pressure-treated timbers and have survived for fifty-years, longer than any other bridge which stood at the same location.

Date Identified: 09/21/2006

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Privately-owned property borders all sides the North Bridge Unit. Negotiations between the town of Concord and a private owner have reduced the square footage of new house bordering the North Bridge Unit, mitigating the visual impact of the house from within the historic landscape. The impact of development, adjacent to the North Bridge Unit, should be given consideration in the planning process to insure the continued historic significance of the area.

Date Identified: 09/21/2006

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Heavy rain creates rivulets in the avenue leading to the North Bridge, the circle drive around The Minute Man (quarter-acre landform), and Groton Road trail. Recent re-grading of these areas has helped to mitigate some of the problem.

Date Identified: 09/21/2006

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1989-09-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2004-01-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report, North Bridge Unit, Minute Man National Historical Park, Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis & Evaluation, Treatment Recommendations

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2172606>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Treatment Type: See CLR

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 2010-01-01

Title: Cultural Landscape Report for the Buttrick House
Gardens, Minute Man National Historic Park,
Concord, Massachusetts

IRMA Link: <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2184069>

Narrative:

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
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McDonald, Brad	Final Report: Intensive Archeological Investigations in Association with the North Bridge Unit Rehabilitation Project	2004	Gray & Pape, Inc.			406033
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Donahue, Brian and Hohmann, Heidi	Cultural Landscape Report for Meriam's Corner, Minute Man National Historical Park	1994	Division of Cultural Resource Management, North Atlantic Region, NPS			403125
Donahue, Brian	Plowland, Pasture, Woodland and Meadow: Husbandry in Concord Massachusetts, 1635-1771	1994	Brandeis University			405251
Dietrich-Smith, Deborah	Cultural Landscape Report, North Bridge Unit, Minute Man National Historical Park	2004	Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			405217
Boston National Historic Sites Commission	Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission	1958				016169
Shurtleff, Arthur A.	Report of Arthur A. Shurtleff to Commission on the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the American Revolution	1925				

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
CL-FMSS_crosswalk-MIMA_NorthBridge_CLIUpload.xlsx		Other Report
MIMA_Battle-Brooks-Fiske-Hart-JS-Meriam-Nelson-NB-Way_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source