THE LEXINGTON-CONCORD BATTLE ROAD

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

TO THE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 1958

Revolutionary Park Urged

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR 2/5/59

By a Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Boston

Just how did the Sons of Liberty work during the American Revolution? What were the conditions that enabled the American farmers to give the British a "sound thrashing"?

A partial answer, at least, would be provided by making the sites in Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord look as they did at the time of the battle.

Mark Bortman, chairman of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission, recently outlined this as part of the proposal for a national historical park in these communities.

By restoring the land as near as possible to the original farm and pasturelands and with the aid of historical markers, Mr. Bortman envisioned the park as "not just a historical park or site or memorial to the beginning of the revolution." He said it would be a way of telling other Americans as well as visitors from abroad about the events of April 18 and 19, 1775.

Report Submitted

The commission recently submitted an interim report to the United States Congress on the problem of preserving important sites in the Boston area of the Colonial and revolutionary period.

This park, if approved by Congress, would extend along the Lexington - Concord Battle Road and would be in two units. The larger — containing 557 acres, would stretch slightly more than four miles from Route 128 to Merriam's Corner, Concord, extending approximately 400 feet on either side of the road.

The smaller section of the park would be located at the North Bridge in Concord, and would consist of 155 acres from Monument Street to Liberty Street to Lowell Road.

Eight Acres Donated

Eight acres of land, originally earmarked for housing for families connected with the Laurence G. Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, has already been given for the park and would be used as such even if Congress did not pass the bill, Mr. Bortman said.

The program also includes erecting significant markers along the routes of Paul Revere, William Dawes, and the British relief party under General Percy, as well as identifying sites of the numerous events that occurred. These markers would be along the 20-mile stretch from Hanover Street, Boston, to the Barrett Farm, Concord.

Houses that were on the proposed parklands in 1775 would be restored. And although these originally numbered about 16 there are only eight now standing. Modern houses would be razed, the chairman added.

While acquisition of all the property is targeted for 1975—the 200th anniversary of the battle—Edwin W. Small, the commission's historian and collator of much of the report's material, said this was distinctly a long-range plan.

Mr. Bortman underlined this by saying that lands would not be seized, that they would negotiate with the owners, and if the owners wished to remain there they could. But the commission wants the right of first option to buy.

MEMBERS

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*Successor to Mr. Charles H. Watkins,
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SUMMARY OF THE INTERIM REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEXINGTON-CONCORD BATTLE ROAD

In the report that follows, the Boston National Historic Sites Commission recommends the creation of a national historical park embracing portions of the traditional setting along the route in Lexington, Lincoln and Concord, Massachusetts, that was traversed by the British on the epoch-making 19th of April, 1775, and used by the Minute Men and Provincial Militia to turn their retreat into a rout. Part of the route in Lexington and Lincoln was also covered the night before by Paul Revere on his famous ride and includes the site of his capture.

The proposed park would be made up of two principal units. The larger, of 557 acres, would form a continuous stretch of slightly more than four miles of road and roadside properties from Route 128 in Lexington to Meriam's Corner in Concord. The smaller unit, at the celebrated North Bridge in Concord, would embrace 155 acres inside maximum boundaries.

Of the 557 acres in the proposed larger unit, 524 acres of private properties would need to be acquired. In the smaller unit, 142 acres. The current market value of the total of 666 acres of private properties proposed for acquisition in both units is $4,838,100. Of this amount, $503,400 would satisfactorily initiate an urgent program to acquire 310 acres, consisting of the total of 294 acres of vacant parcels in both units and 16 acres of improved parcels of almost equal priority at the North Bridge.

Besides a positive program to acquire lands for the two principal units of the proposed national historical park, the report contains recommendations for cooperative agreements with local governments, societies and other property owners wherever feasible to insure the continued preservation and facilitate the interpretation of significant sites and structures that lie both inside and outside of the units specifically proposed. Such notable places as the Battle Green in Lexington and Wright's Tavern in Concord are situated within the borders of neither unit proposed. They, however, are no less important in the history of the 19th of April, 1775, and as part of any plan to achieve a comprehensive and coordinated program.

Also called for is the erection of a uniform system of historical markers to identify the sites and structures of the numerous events and incidents that occurred both on the eve of and during the day that opened the War of the American Revolution. These sites and structures are distributed over a distance of 20 miles from Hanover Street in the heart of Old Boston to the Barrett Farm beside the Assabet River in Concord, two miles beyond the North Bridge and the farthest point reached by the British expeditionary force.

A detailed and comprehensive narrative, prepared in chronological sequence and relating the events and incidents of the momentous day to the historic landscape, appears as an important appendix to the report. The Commission believes this narrative to be a contribution of some fresh and original value as well as a helpful guide to the actual beginning of Revolutionary hostilities. Other appendices furnish additional data about individual sites and buildings, besides appropriate maps, plans and pictures. The main body of the report attempts to explain both the historical significance and existing conditions that have prompted the Commission's recommendations.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

With Especial Reference to the Preservation of

The Lexington-Concord Battle Road of the 19th of April, 1775

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INTERIM REPORT OF THE BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION,

With Especial Reference to the Preservation of

The Lexington-Concord Battle Road of the 19th of April, 1775.

Boston, Massachusetts

June 16, 1958

To the Senate and the House of Representatives:

This special interim report is respectfully brought to your attention by the Boston National Historic Sites Commission, created by Public Law 75 - 84th Congress - Chapter 144 - 1st Session - S.J. Res. 6, approved June 15, 1955, "for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of establishing a coordinated program in which the Federal Government may cooperate with local and State governments and historical and patriotic societies for the preservation and appreciation by the public of the most important of the Colonial and Revolutionary properties in Boston and the general vicinity thereof which form outstanding examples of America's historical heritage."

The Subject of the Report: The report that follows relates to historic properties that are intimately associated with an event of paramount importance in the Nation's history - the outbreak of the War of the American Revolution.

The properties are situated for the most part in the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord, Massachusetts, and include remains of the road and roadsides where the British marched on the 19th of April,

1775, and, in their precipitous retreat, met overwhelming resistance at the hands of the Minute Men and Provincial Militia. The same stretch of rolling country, moreover, contains the spot where, in the early morning darkness of the same day, a patrol of British horsemen brought a sudden end to the famous ride of Paul Revere. With good reason, both the time and place have become a fundamental part of the common American heritage and tradition, and even when viewed from the vast expanse of mankind's total experience they still occupy a position that is no less pre-eminent and memorable.

The Occasion for the Report: The countryside through which the "Battle Road of the Revolution" passes and amid which its historic roadsides reposed in peace for over a century and a half is now changing rapidly under the impact of mushrooming development. The latter, in this particular case, emanates not only from the rising tide of migration from city to suburb and the building of new highways, factors commonly found elsewhere, but also from the intermittent and unpredictable expansion of defense activities by the United States Air Force in the immediate neighborhood at Laurence G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Massachusetts.

While the preparation of this report was still in progress, a choice parcel covering some eight acres of the traditional landscape in the Town of Lincoln was spared the fate of devastating transformation at the hands of the Air Force for part of a military housing project. Distinctive features of the parcel are boulders and stone walls behind which the Minute Men fired and pastures they overran in hurried pursuit of the retreating Redcoats on the afternoon of the 19th of April, 1775. For this important step in the direction of cherishing and preserving for posterity a significant link with the Nation's past, the Commission,

indeed, is grateful for the interest and cooperation received from Committees and Members of the Congress and the Secretary of the Air Force upon being apprised by the Commission of the irreparable loss that would result from fully carrying out plans for such a housing development. The Commission, moreover, is mindful and appreciative of the solicitude and concern of the Secretary of the Interior, who has indicated his intention of invoking the authority granted to him under the Historic Sites Act approved August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666) in order to designate and establish the parcel thus saved as a national historic site.

The experience of the Commission with this particular parcel of the American heritage points to the fact that permanent plans and urgent remedies of a more comprehensive nature are needed for additional portions of the historic Battle Road and should be offered to the Congress at the first opportunity. The Commission, in fact, feels it would be remiss in the performance of the duties with which it has been charged under Public Law 75 if it does not furnish the Congress with a report of its findings and recommend measures to deal with the problem as soon as possible.

In addition to circumstances that still threaten the destruction of historical values, the Commission has been induced to submit this report as the result of expressions of public opinion. Citizens who have made patriotic pilgrimages to the Greater Boston area from other parts of the country, in particular, are struck by the inadequate attention and treatment being given the succession of sites connected with the exciting and colorful incidents that opened the struggle for national freedom. Adverse comments concerning the generally unfavorable situation appear from time to time in the Boston press. The letter which is provided with this report as Appendix A presents a fair example of the disappointment

commonly met with by tourists on their visits and of the constructive criticism they offer in the interest of improving conditions. The specimen furnished has been selected because of the fact that it touches on Lexington and Concord as well as the situation in Boston.

Remedies Recommended by the Commission: The Commission's recommendations, which, to be sure, should apply and bear a close relationship to the significant events, structures and sites of the opening day of the War of the Revolution, will be discussed with these factors in mind and explained more fully in the pages that follow and in the appendices. It may be desirable at this point, however, for the reader to gain an immediate insight into the remedies the Commission deems essential and an instant perception of the measures it sees fit to recommend.

The Commission has approached this task fully cognizant of the stress Public Law 75 has placed upon "a coordinated program in which the Federal Government may cooperate with local and State governments and historical and patriotic societies," and it is keenly aware of the part that mutual understanding and cooperation must play in striving for solutions to existing problems. In consequence, the recommendations the Commission has to offer properly begin with and proceed from the premise that mutual understanding and cooperation are attainable. They call for measures that are presented under three headings:

1. Cooperative Agreements. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements in order "to protect, preserve, maintain, or operate" historic buildings, sites, objects or properties in accordance with Section 2(e) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666).

   The Commission, accordingly, recommends that the Secretary of the Interior negotiate cooperative

agreements with the following governments and societies in order mutually to benefit and safeguard the specified historic properties of national significance:

The Town of Lexington for the Battle Green or Common.

The First Parish Society of Concord for Wright's Tavern.

The Town of Concord for the North Bridge Battleground.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord, and any other public and private agencies or owners as may be necessary for the protection of historic roads and roadsides and to facilitate more definite aims and objectives described under the headings 2 and 3 that follow.

2. The Erection of a Uniform System of Historical Markers. The events and incidents which embrace the beginning of the War of the Revolution occurred along streets, roads and waysides that stretch for more than 20 miles from the old heart of Boston to the Barrett Farm beyond the center of Concord. It is feasible to retrieve properties along less than one-quarter of the total distance represented by these historic routes and their respective roadsides. The significant sites and structures along the entire way, however, should be adequately and properly marked "for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States."

The Commission, therefore, recommends that the Secretary of the Interior, taking advantage of the skills and experience at his disposal through the National Park Service, be authorized to carry out a program of historical marking along the entire route of the historic events immediately preceding and including the 19th of April, 1775.

It is intended by this recommendation that the Secretary of the Interior should invoke his authority under the Historic Sites Act of 1935 to enter into any cooperative agreements that may be required in order to carry out this program, and that funds should be appropriated by the Congress to cover the cost of the construction or manufacture and erection of such markers, and of any additional study and investigation that may be advisable in order to determine their proper location and to further the adoption of a suitable design.

3. Acquisition of Historic Properties. Most important and enduring of plausible measures that can be taken

to achieve the ends for which this Commission was created involves the acquisition of historic properties and their consolidation and inclusion as a national historical park in the National Park System.

The Commission, consequently, recommends that the Congress authorize the establishment of a national historical park that will finally contain not only the unspoiled parcel that is being rescued from transformation into a military housing project and will be designated as a national historic site, but also a continuous four-mile stretch of the historic route and adjoining properties over which the British marched and then retreated under a galling fire from the aroused Minute Men and Provincial Militia. This stretch runs from Highway Route 128 in Lexington to Meriam's Corner in Concord, the point at which the British retreat developed into a running fight and the real aspect of uninterrupted warfare marked the outbreak of the American Revolution.

The Commission also recommends the acquisition of properties adjacent to the famous battleground at the North Bridge in Concord, the scene of the first attack by the Minute Men and Provincial Militia upon the British and the location of the celebrated Minute Man Statue - universally known and revered as a soul-stirring symbol of the spirit of American patriotism and human freedom.

More specific data as to real estate costs and a program of land acquisition in accordance with the above recommendations are provided as the concluding part of the main body of this report. Maps showing the areas proposed for acquisition are a part of Appendix F.

Explanation of the Commission's Procedure to Date: As originally intended, the complete results of the investigations and studies of historic properties being made by the Commission, together with recommendations, were to be incorporated in one final report to be "transmitted to the Congress by the Secretary of the Interior within two years following the approval of" Public Law 75 or by June 16, 1957. The Commission was then to cease to exist. In accordance, however, with Public Law 85-5, approved February 20, 1957, the life of the Commission was extended for one additional year or until June 16, 1958. At this time, it appears probable that another extension of one year

to June 16, 1959, will be granted by the Congress in response to the Commission's request. In any case, it will be necessary for submission of the Commission's final report to be postponed.

A preliminary report dated July 18, 1956, was submitted voluntarily by the members of the Executive Committee functioning for the Commission to the Secretary of the Interior for transmittal to the Congress in accordance with prescribed procedure. The report was prepared, as it specifically states, "to serve as a record of compliance with the provisions of Public Law 75 and to give some indication of the scope and progress of the work undertaken by the Commission through the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1956." In a discussion of shortcomings existing in the local pattern of historical preservation, moreover, this report makes particular reference to the shameful neglect of the Lexington-Concord Battle Road and appraises the distressing situation in connection therewith as follows:

> "In the exceptional case of the famous Lexington-Concord Battle Road of 1775, where no public agency nor private organization is now active or strong enough to handle the problem, it is probable that action at the national level will be not only essential but urgent if hallowed ground is to be saved from mundane and disrespectful uses before it is too late."

Subsequent to the submission of the above report, the Commission has found that conditions relating to the Lexington-Concord Battle Road are even more unsatisfactory than at first anticipated and it is prompted with even more certitude now to submit this special interim report.

Incidents Related to the Historic Day: The series of incidents leading up to and including that portentous day the King's Regulars went out to Lexington and Concord from Boston and were there engaged by the Minute Men and armed populace of the countryside comprises a mass of

details that would soon engulf the body of this report. A chronology, therefore, is attached as Appendix B and is provided in the hope that it may be helpful in conveying a sense of timing and relationship between the main incidents. Besides this narrative of events in the order of their occurrence, it may contribute to a better understanding of the significance of the 19th of April, 1775, as a whole, if some of the day's broader implications are also briefly explored.

Historical Significance of the 19th of April, 1775: The direct purpose of the military expedition to Lexington, as presumed by the patriots who watched every move made by the British in Boston, was to arrest John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who had taken refuge there as guests of the Reverend Jonas Clarke following the adjournment of the Provincial Congress at Concord. These patriot leaders had been foremost in fomenting sedition against those acts of oppression and misrule that for more than a decade had characterized the restrictive Colonial policy of the King's ministers and Parliament. If captured, they doubtless would have been sent to England and tried for treason. From Lexington, the royal troops were to advance on Concord and seize the military stores gathered there by order of the Provincial Congress and the Committees of Safety and Supplies.

The outcome, as every schoolchild knows, was a clash of arms, the shedding of blood, and the opening of the War of the American Revolution. When Samuel Adams heard the distant rattle of British musketry on Lexington Green, he is alleged to have exclaimed, "What a glorious morning for America is this!" And, indeed, it was, for the volley which brought forth those ecstatic and oft-quoted words from the "Father of the Revolution" foretold the coming of Independence and the birth of a new Nation.

The sequence of deeds and incidents which started on the night of the 18th and continued through the 19th of April, 1775, have long been cherished in "tradition, legend, tune and song." As a noted English historian also once remarked, "pages and pages have been written about the history of each ten minutes in that day, and the name of every colonist who played a part is a household word in America."

Enthusiasm for the subject as a whole developed as the young Nation grew in stature and strength, and attained enough perspective to look back with feelings of reverence and pride on its unpretentious, yet no less dramatic, origins. A fully popular discernment of the place of the 18th and 19th of April in the country's past no doubt stems from about the year 1863 when the poet Longfellow was inspired to write his familiar verses bestowing particular glory on Paul Revere, who -

"On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five"

had proved himself -

"Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm."

The story of "Paul Revere's Ride" and ensuing events on that fateful day in "Seventy-five," as told by Longfellow in Tales of a Wayside Inn, does not fail to kindle the dullest of imaginations or to stir the most sluggish sentiments of patriotism. To the poet, it may be safe to say, half the world owes its impressions of -

"How the British Regulars fired and fled, -
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farm-yard wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load."

Hardly less memorable than the spirited lines of Longfellow are those of the sage Emerson, whose "Concord Hymn" was first sung in 1837 upon completion of the Battle Monument which still rises -

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,"

and commemorates "the embattled farmers" who "fired the shot heard round the world."

The great philosopher's phrasing was more momentous than perhaps he himself was fully aware, for the shot fired by "the embattled farmers" not only marked the beginning of the War of the American Revolution but four decades of tumult and upheaval in the wide and restive world of Western Civilization. It also initiated an epoch-making change in warfare itself.

An armed yeomanry - the product of revitalizing the old Colonial militia system and combining the rudiments of both selective and universal military service - had been hastily summoned to fight for liberty. A horde of citizen soldiers, comprised of the young and active levies of Minute Men who were sworn to hold themselves "in readiness at a minute's warning with arms and ammunition" and reserves of old men and boys in alarm companies, had turned out to expel the invader. No mere professional hirelings submissive to the vicissitudes of the debasing military life of the time, this host of freedom-loving countrymen had been aroused to a high pitch of patriotic fervor. Their determination to uphold what they regarded as their natural rights and to govern themselves had already been expressed on more than one occasion. In no uncertain terms, a Lexington town meeting in 1773 had pledged aid and allegiance to the people of Boston, who were opposed to the landing of a shipment of tea to be taxed for the King.

In these impassioned words, the citizens had declared:

> "We trust in God that should the state of affairs require it, we shall be ready to sacrifice our estates and every thing dear in life, yea, and life itself, in support of the common cause."

An outpouring of manpower imbued with such an exalted and fervent temper of mind was bound to challenge and confound the static and formalized eighteenth century concept of making war; and it was soon to be evident that the habitually small but highly trained and specialized armies, meeting mostly on open terrain, could no longer depend on reaching a lasting decision by force of arms. A military revolution, in short, had begun which in a little more than another decade was to cross the Atlantic and be compounded in the democratic mass wars of the French Revolution.

Almost from any reckoning or choice, then, whether it be documentary or legendary, political or social, and literary or military, the 19th of April, 1775, looms large in the perception of history - not only to fill pages that sparkle in the Nation's own honorable record, but also to stand before the whole world as a harbinger of progress and change. For, on the day of Lexington and Concord, man reached an important milestone in the eternal struggle to control and improve his estate upon earth and in America, at least, a new beacon of hope began to shine in his favor.

Speaking at Lexington three-quarters of a century later, Louis Kossuth, a Hungarian leader celebrated in the cause of freedom, looked back and proclaimed the action of that decisive day in its widest perspective as "the opening scene of a revolution that is destined to change the character of human governments, and the condition of the human race."

The same glowing sentiment pervaded the Centennial Celebration at Concord in 1875 and was fittingly expressed in the following summary fashion:

> "The Nineteenth of April, 1775: a glorious day for Lexington and Concord, for the Towns of Middlesex, for Massachusetts, for America, for freedom and the rights of man. Every blow struck for liberty among men since the 19th of April, 1775, has but echoed the guns of that eventful morning."

The Scope of the Problem of Preservation and Revival of Historic Properties along the Battle Road: It is now 183 years since the outbreak of those hostilities that prepared the way for the achievement of American Independence and the creation of a Federal Union and Government. In that time, Boston and the string of neighboring country and coastal towns that responded to the ominous and rousing alarm occasioned by the British march on the era-shaping 19th of April, 1775, have increased in population from some 50,000 souls to over 2,500,000, occupying a vast metropolitan and suburban area that is still expanding. Needless to say, the spread of population outward from Boston as well as the natural increase within the towns themselves have not taken place without the effect of shattering changes on the historic landscape and the irrecoverable loss of historical values.

The transformation of the Revolutionary setting began almost a century and a half ago. It started in Boston, as might well be expected, with the rise of that city as a great seaport and mart of commerce in the flourishing days of the young Republic. The arrival of the Machine Age in full force within the last fifty years greatly accelerated the pace of urban expansion and suburban growth, and the process has speeded up to an unprecedented degree in the decade following World War II. Today, in

fact, no portion of the 20 miles traversed in 1775 by the British expedition from the Charles River in Cambridge to the Barrett Farm in Concord has escaped unscathed or totally free from the heavy and relentless hand of change.

Appendices B and C to this report have been assembled not only to reveal the sequence of stirring events and incidents that occurred on the opening day of the fight for national freedom but also to show explicitly and in some measure of detail the extent to which the historic properties, buildings and sites associated with those events have withstood the impact of a sprawling populace that all too often has been unsympathetic if not entirely unmindful of their existence. It may be helpful at this point to reduce the details given in the appendices to a concise and conclusive generality.

The historic countryside along the routes made famous by Paul Revere and the British succumbed completely to the transition made by city and suburb through Charlestown, Cambridge, Somerville, Medford and Arlington well before World War I. A similar process of growth and change in the years subsequent to World War I crept over the western boundary of Arlington into Lexington. In the current postwar era, it has passed through the center of that town and reached out a little more than a mile west of the celebrated Battle Green, where it has been but momentarily halted by the new circumferential highway, Route 128, a major artery that serves north and southbound traffic and bypasses Boston.

The new highway, in other words, forms the western terminus of the continuously and thickly populated area that now comprises Metropolitan Boston. The highway, moreover, cuts across the route over which the British marched and then retreated after their foray into the country.

Broadly speaking, it is also the dividing line today between the retrievable and irretrievable past.

Timely Accomplishments along the Transformed Portion of the Battle Road: The few historic properties that remain today east of Route 128 - through Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville and Charlestown - and are properly recognized as such, were rescued for the most part by the valiant enterprise and meritorious effort of local historical organizations while it was still possible to do so many years ago. In this connection, the work of the Lexington Historical Society stands out in particular. This local group under inspired leadership saved several structures that are closely tied to the events of the 19th of April, 1775.

A praiseworthy task performed in a similar manner was that of the Arlington Historical Society, which prevented the extinction of a house that was important as the stage for bitter fighting and the martyrdom of patriots on the afternoon of the historic day. Data concerning these structures and their significance, that have been gathered by the Commission's staff, are furnished as part of the chronological narrative in Appendix B and the explanatory notes of Appendix C.

Apart from the exceptions noted above and Lexington's Battle Green, which, in any case, had excellent chances of survival as the town's time-honored common of Colonial days, the pattern of transition east of Route 128 has been rigorous and thoroughgoing. Only since town planning has become an important factor in community development and begun to exercise a beneficial effect upon the arrangement of industry, business, homes, churches and schools have the foibles of change exemplified by an earlier era been avoided or at least brought under some measure of control.

Unfortunately, planning of sufficient scope and specific controls for the benefit of historic properties have arrived too late to help in many places. Where the damage has already been done and the loss of historical values is complete or nearly so, as in large sections east of Lexington, controls are now of little avail. They, however, can be applied with good intent and hope of sustaining and even improving the environment of the few sites and structures that have outlived previous periods of transformation. A commendable and outstanding example of recent endeavor along these lines is provided by the three historic districts established in the Town of Lexington in 1956 and referred to more fully in Appendices C and D of this report.

Plausible Measures Still Needed to Effect Historical Improvements: After careful investigation and attentive study, the Commission has come to the conclusion that it is definitely impractical and out of the question to consider the revival of any portion of the 12 miles of the Battle Road that lies east of the circumferential highway, Route 128, or any of the roadsides or other features adjoining that have not already been saved through the activity of local societies and governments. This being the case, the main opportunities and needs, then, in that part of the Battle Road that cannot be further retrieved, are to be found in raising the standards of maintenance and presentation for the benefit of the public of the sites and structures that do remain, and in strengthening the prospect of their retention for posterity without further impairment or loss.

The most obvious and important area that is suitably the subject of such concern is Lexington Green and its borders, including the Buckman Tavern and other structures that were witnesses to the initial clash of arms. The Battle Green, it goes almost without saying, is a key site in

the series to which the history of the opening day of conflict belongs. Its significance and place in the American heritage are established in the minds of millions.

A site that is so much an acknowledged part of the common past deserves as full measures of national recognition and cooperation as attainable. Such measures may be fittingly taken through the negotiation of a cooperative agreement by the Town of Lexington and the Secretary of the Interior. The authority for such action is provided by the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666), the text of which is supplied for reference purposes as Appendix E to this report.

The consummation of cooperative agreements between authorities of the Nation and of local governments and societies to assure the maximum of effort for the protection and betterment of the important sites and structures under local ownership and control is basic to any "coordinated program" envisaged by the legislation creating this Commission. Such agreements, moreover, are almost a prerequisite to any larger public investment through acquisitions of property and other means that the Commission feels is urgent further along the Battle Road. The recommendations of the Commission, consequently, have been drawn up with such procedure uppermost in mind.

The Need for a System of Markers throughout the Historic Route:

The Commission has taken into account the desirability of a uniform system of historical markers for the entire length of the Battle Road. Markers or permanent interpretive aids to guide and orient serious students of history and curious and persistent sojourners are needed perhaps even more where the historic landscape and specific sites and structures have perished

than where they remain intact. For the many sites east of Route 128 that are lost or have been altered beyond the point of being readily recognized in any other way, the installation of a system of markers, indeed, affords the only plausible and useful method by which the present can still show a conscientious regard and intelligent respect for the past.

An earlier generation, particularly in the 1880's and 1890's, was active in putting up substantial tablets of stone at noteworthy sites along the way. These tablets, to be sure, took care of inquisitive visitors in the more leisurely days of the horse and buggy, and even the trolley. A surprising number of these tablets still endure, but foreknowledge of their supposed existence and location is essential preparation for any trip on foot to find them. It is certain that in this age of greater congestion and more rapid motor transportation modern markers, that will show up readily and serve the modern traveler, are sorely needed.

The thinking of the Commission on this matter of historical markers - which should be visible and useful as well as inspiring and colorful - takes into consideration the fact that marking of any kind may be impractical and should not be undertaken along the newer highways that have been designed to move large volumes of traffic at high rates of speed. Not all of the Battle Road, however, has been transformed into main traffic arteries or superhighways. The concept of marking should definitely not be abandoned where both the motorist and pedestrian still have a chance to pause by the wayside.

In the final analysis, it should be remembered that, while the automobile accounts for the intrusion of modern highways on the traditional landscape, it also provides the means by which countless historic sites

and buildings that would otherwise be inaccessible have been brought within the reach of millions of people, whose understanding and appreciation of the Nation's history and historical values need to be encouraged and enhanced by the use of effective and up-to-date marking devices.

A Proposal for a National Historical Park: The process of change that has been so destructive of historical values east of Lexington is now getting under way along the significant section of the Battle Road that stretches from Route 128 in Lexington four miles westward through the north end of the Town of Lincoln as far as Meriam's Corner in Concord. Though the residential spread and overflow of population is beginning to make serious inroads, it is still feasible to offer a plan for the recovery of the historic landscape and historical values in this section. By sparing a relatively unspoiled roadside tract of eight acres in Lincoln from conversion into a military housing project and by further indications from the Secretary of the Interior that he will set up and control this parcel of hallowed ground under the National Park Service as a national historic site, the Federal Government has already embarked upon a reassuring and timely course of action.

This promising start should be followed before it is too late by the logical fulfillment and realization of a greater potential and more farsighted objective. In the judgment of the Commission, this potential and objective should consist of the establishment and development of a national historical park in the four-mile stretch that lies between Route 128 and Meriam's Corner. By the same criteria that the turning point of the Revolution is now properly recognized and commemorated in the Saratoga National Historical Park and the successful conclusion of warfare on land in the Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown, it is essential to

give similar emphasis and treatment to the opening scenes of strife at Lexington, at Concord and in Lincoln. Any plan conceived at the Federal level to encompass the full scope and significance of the Nation's history cannot overlook the beginning of the struggle that joined the Thirteen Colonies together and finally moved them to form the United States of America.

The Commission is keenly aware that the further recovery of the historic roadsides along the section of four miles from Route 128 to Meriam's Corner will become increasingly difficult as time goes on. It, therefore, is prompted to advance as earnestly and speedily as possible the recommendations for the acquisition of property that are a part of this report. It is almost a certainty that these recommendations will afford the very last opportunity to regain and to pass on to future generations any appreciable and meaningful segment of the setting and environment in which the War for American Independence was born.

The 200th Anniversary of this War, which the Nation should begin to observe and celebrate on the 19th of April, 1975, is less than two decades away. For this momentous occasion, the Nation could make no contribution that would pay a more appropriate, reverent and lasting homage to the past and at the same time afford a more inspiring, sagacious and rewarding example of planning and accomplishment for the future than by providing necessary assurance and evidence of the fact that a most relevant and vital parcel of the common heritage will be revived and safeguarded forever.

In order to realize the above objectives, it is now none too soon to adopt a plan of action and to initiate necessary proceedings. Legislation authorizing the establishment of a national historical park and defining its boundaries should be introduced in the Congress without

delay. This action should be followed promptly by the appropriation of funds for a program of land acquisition. In this program, immediate priority should be given to procuring public ownership and control of vacant and unused parcels or tracts in order to forestall as quickly as possible any further prospect of their development for residential, industrial or commercial uses. The course to be pursued from then on for historical preservation in the public interest will thus be set and much of it planned and realized before the bicentennial in 1975.

Long-range planning necessary to accomplish the above task is a function that properly belongs to the National Park Service. The Commission, therefore, will not undertake in this report to outline a program in more detail for preservation and development of the proposed park. The Commission wishes simply to stress its firm conviction and belief that a national historical park extending continuously over four miles of a significant section of the Battle Road, and in convenient proximity to arteries of traffic and travel moving thousands of motor vehicles daily, offers the best opportunity that may still be realized to bring before the American people a comprehensive and vivid picture of the beginning of their struggle for national freedom.

As already stated, the whole stretch of 20 or more miles from Boston to the Barrett Farm in Concord which provided the setting for the main incidents and events on the 18th and 19th of April cannot be rescued or revived at this late date. A park that could be easily reached along the way, however, could also serve a broad and useful purpose as a center of information and orientation for the entire historic route. The park, in other words, should exist not only to interpret what transpired within a continuous four-mile area but to shed rays of light upon all the

historic sites and buildings that are a part of the same story and that need to be linked together for the benefit and understanding of the visiting public, irrespective of the diversity in their ownership or control.

The Commission feels that achievement along the above lines should be one of the major objectives of the park. The latter should prove to be the mainspring by which a "coordinated program" can work to the advantage of all groups and organizations in the vicinity of Boston that are concerned with problems of historical preservation relating to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. The program would be facilitated not only by creation of the park itself but by cooperative agreements to cover historically important properties outside the park proper and a system of historical markers for the whole length of the Battle Road.

The location and boundaries for a national historical park to be created in accordance with the point of view expressed in the preceding paragraphs as well as for separate or protruding structures and sites that should bear a close relationship to it are shown on maps provided in Appendix F.

The Proposed Park in Relation to Major Highways: It will be observed that a numbered highway - Route 2A - runs through the proposed area at the present time. As the park comes into existence, this road can be relocated beyond the park boundaries and bear an even closer relationship to the major highway - Route 2 - that now parallels it a mile to the southward.

Route 2 has long been one of the main highways linking Boston with Western Massachusetts and New York State. After extensive enlargement and rebuilding scheduled to take place within another decade, this old road is destined to become more important than ever before as the principal freeway leading into Boston from the West. Crossing the picturesque Berkshire Hills

of Western Massachusetts at approximately the same breach through the mountains used in Colonial days by the Mohawk Indians on the warpath, Route 2 is well-known today as the Mohawk Trail. In combination with the circumferential highway, Route 128, which it cuts across less than two miles away from the eastern terminus of the proposed park, Route 2 is strategically situated from the standpoint of tourist travel and will possess a still greater potential as a feeder of prospective visitors to the historical park if further improved or rerouted and rebuilt.

Other obvious feeders from the West and South below Route 2, including the new Massachusetts Turnpike, already empty a tremendous volume of both local and long-distance travel into Route 128 and carry it to the very threshold of the proposed park. During the summer of 1957, the average weekday traffic passing through Lexington over Route 128 between Wellesley and Lynnfield was 45,415 vehicles. The figures for Sundays and holidays, of course, were considerably more.

State and Local Endorsement of the Commission's Proposal: The proposal of the Commission to create a national historical park through the longest section of the Battle Road that is still retrievable has been brought to the attention of appropriate officials of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Selectmen, Planning Boards and similar appropriate committees of the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord. The role of the cooperative agreement as a means of achieving other worthwhile objectives of historical preservation and interpretation has also been explained. In all of its contacts, the Commission has been aware of the implications and significance of its proposals in relation to planning at the State and local level and has attempted to be as helpful as possible in presenting a plausible and realistic picture of its aims.

While neither the Commonwealth nor the towns that would be concerned in the project are in a position either professionally or financially to accept the major responsibility for an historical undertaking of such large and significant proportions, they, nevertheless, recognize the importance and urgency of the proposal and are ready to give favorable consideration toward making contributions of their assets of property and other rights within the suggested boundaries in order to advance the cause of the proposal and accelerate its fulfillment. Already, the Lexington Planning Board has included the project in its long-range plan of development for the town. Further action and endorsement of the proposal on the part of the State and of local governments will doubtless follow the submission of this report by the Commission in accordance with the procedure authorized by Public Law 75 and its reception pursuant thereto by the Congress.

The Historical Problem at the Concord End of the Battle Road:

The Battle Road of the 19th of April, 1775, properly speaking, begins at Meriam's Corner in Concord, where the continuous running fight of the afternoon was precipitated when the Redcoats, withdrawing unopposed from the center of the town, hurriedly fired upon the Reading Militia taking cover around the old Meriam House.

This hasty and impulsive act on the part of the British proved to be of great consequence as a turning point in the events of the day, for it set off a chain reaction of mounting opposition and bitterness. In their flight from then on, the troops of the King were closely pressed and unceasingly harassed by the armed populace of the countryside and the Militia arriving from more distant towns. Any ideas of restraint or avoiding more violence and bloodshed were now definitely dissipated.

Real warfare had started and its intensity steadily increased as the British fought, pillaged and burned their way back over the 16 miles through Lincoln, Lexington, Arlington, Cambridge and Somerville.

It, indeed, is fitting and significant that Meriam's Corner, the spot where both the afternoon's battle and seven years of unabated conflict embracing the War of the Revolution began, should be considered a focal point of surpassing merit and included within the boundaries proposed by the Commission for a national historical park.

The events and incidents which took place in Concord beyond Meriam's Corner before the start of the running fight comprise such a large and distinct body of activity associated with the historic day that it seems most logical and convenient to treat them as a separate series of episodes and to regard the structures and sites connected with these episodes in a similar way.

It must be remembered that the destruction of military stores, reported as being gathered by the Provincial Congress in several places at Concord, was the main objective of the British expeditionary force. In order to reach the suspected depositaries, the commander of the Redcoats had first to bring his men into the center of town, a mile and a quarter west of Meriam's Corner, and there divide them for still more distant forays. The half-mile advance of the troops who marched from the center of town out to the celebrated North Bridge, and remained there to be attacked by the Minute Men and Provincial Militia, is well-known in history. Less clearly retained in memory are the forays made elsewhere by companies of the light infantry - one of two miles beyond the North Bridge to the Barrett Farm and another of a mile out to the South Bridge from the public square. Both of these excursions were initiated after the Regulars

arrived in the center of town and both of them had to be completed before the British commander could account for all of his companies of grenadiers and light infantry and begin the long trek back through a hostile countryside.

Most distant from Boston of the towns that provided the stage for the Nation's history on the 19th of April, Concord, until recently, was not so exposed and suffered less than its neighbors to the eastward from inroads upon the traditional landscape occasioned by the outspread of an urban population. The fame of the town was further enriched during the last century as it became the abode of Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Louisa May Alcott and other articulate individuals, who cultivated a life of simple living and high thinking and recorded impressions and ideas in the fields of literature and thought that are now known as classics throughout the world. Under these conditions, the events of the opening day of the Revolution are accorded an important place, yet it is a place that does not completely overshadow that held by the illustrious authors and thinkers who contributed so profusely and brilliantly to the cultural life of the Nation.

The modest growth experienced by Concord so long as it remained a rural community, with the stamp of shining literary lights and their pursuit of plain living upon it, was absorbed easily and without disquieting replacements or shocking changes. As a result, it is gratifying and not a little surprising to find that many dwellings still survive that were a part of the setting or figured in incidents which happened during the visit by the British. With the important exceptions of the Old Manse and Wright's Tavern, all of these buildings are privately owned today and in most cases have been adapted to suit the tastes and

serve the demands of later residents or owners. In several instances, it is a happy coincidence that the latter have shown a sensitive and perceptive regard for the past by striving to keep their properties intact and to efface any improprieties committed in artistic confusion or apathy by previous generations.

Historic Districts and Historical Markers as a Partial Solution to the Problem: The Commission believes great credit and warm praise are due individual owners who have taken pains to prevent the properties under their care from being subjected to the type of rigorous transformation so common in many places today. In our democratic form of society, it is feasible and possible for only a very few of the most significant of historical properties ever to become the responsibility of agencies of government or private organizations. This being the case, the initiative to effect controls and the resources for improvement of the majority of the structures in Concord that date back either to the Revolution or the golden days of the nineteenth century writers must come from voluntary action and, for the most part, be provided by the property owners themselves.

Public measures, however, can promote progress along the above lines and prevent future architectural atrocities or disfigurements and misguided development or change. For Concord, specifically, the Commission feels that controls now limited primarily to those in the category of zoning should be extended to include the adoption of legislation to create historic districts. As a minimum, the districts should embrace the so-called "American Mile," running from Meriam's Corner into the public square, and the half-mile from the latter out to the North Bridge Battleground. Another plausible district might cover the mile from the center of town to the South Bridge and the houses of some Revolutionary account

in the immediate vicinity.

Historical markers, forming a part of the same uniform system discussed and favored in a preceding section of this report for the Battle Road Proper, should be used to identify the buildings and sites beside the routes mentioned in the preceding paragraph as appropriate subjects for stricter control through the establishment of historic districts. Markers should also be extended as necessary along the two miles from the North Bridge to the Barrett Farm, the most distant objective of the British march. Without prior inquiry or study on the part of the inquisitive visitor, the Barrett Farm cannot be found today. It has never been marked in any way and is probably the least known of any of the key sites associated with the 19th of April.

The Special Problem of Wright's Tavern: Both Wright's Tavern, facing the public square, and the North Bridge Battleground, half a mile out Monument Street, are of major historical significance and have long been recognized as the heart or core of Revolutionary Concord. As such, they require the Commission's most careful consideration and are more fully discussed under separate headings in Appendix C of this report. It, consequently, is at the risk of some repetition that the Commission wishes to give additional emphasis here to the importance of Wright's Tavern.

The foursquare old public house kept by Amos Wright on the eve of the Revolution was too small to lodge more than a handful of the 300 delegates to the Provincial Congress which, in the fall of 1774 and again the following March, met in the meetinghouse next door to pass those specific measures ending the payment of taxes to King George and providing for the organization of an armed force and the collection of military

supplies to implement the forthcoming rebellion of the people. The little red inn, however, was large enough for deliberations by the committees that steered the delegates in assembly over the road to Revolution.

Concord's ancient meetinghouse has been replaced by a more recent structure, but Wright's Tavern inevitably stands as the chief physical reminder of the Provincial Congress and its momentous role in the chain of events that brought an end to British misrule and initiated the quest of a restive people for a government they could truly call their own. It, moreover, is the principal landmark remaining in the center of town that possesses substantial and vigorous associations with both the Minute Men and the Redcoats. As the scene, in particular, of Major Pitcairn's lusty boast that he would stir the Yankee blood even as he stirred his glass of brandy, Wright's Tavern has attained in the popular imagination an even more vivid and human relationship to the developing struggle for independence. It should live on as an accepted part of the traditional heritage and be preserved and shown to the public for all time to come.

The old tavern now stands idle and empty. Though obviously unsuited to usage for any religious purposes, the historic hostelry was purchased by two eminent citizens of the town many years ago in order to spare it from impending destruction and presented it to the First Parish Society, which owns the adjoining property and worships in the imposing white-pillared edifice that has supplanted the original meetinghouse. The donors were convinced that the Society, in the absence of a more appropriate guardian, was in the best position to exercise a neighborly and enduring stewardship of the surviving old structure and could handle it most readily as an adjunct to its principal functions in the community.

The Society attempted to revive the customary usage of the historic building as a public house and now and then met with some success in finding an innkeeper to undertake the task as a business enterprise. A number of factors, however, have finally contributed toward making the venture discouraging and no longer sought for. As a result, the tavern has been vacant for some little time. The Society does not have the need nor the resources to put it to any other use.

The Commission is mindful of the importance that should be attached to Wright's Tavern as an historic building of the Revolutionary period and feels that the place of the old inn, especially in relation to the Revolution-making Provincial Congress, should be more widely recognized and thoroughly understood. The membership of the Commission, therefore, is forthright in urging that a cooperative agreement under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 be negotiated by the Secretary of the Interior with the First Parish Society in Concord expressly for the purpose of providing for the opening and showing of Wright's Tavern as an historic house museum on a permanent basis.

The above ends may be best achieved by arranging for the interpretation and maintenance of the historic tavern under the auspices of the National Park Service, with especial cooperation and assistance being solicited from local societies and individuals for donations and loans of appropriate museum objects and furnishings.

Thousands of visitors now pass by the door of Wright's Tavern annually and, although the structure has been impressively marked, the public is unable to enter. The strategic location of the little red inn cannot be denied. Looking out upon the central square and visible from every side, it is as obvious a point of concentration for sojourners in

the historic town today as it was in 1775. Furthermore, as an important as well as strategic link in the chain of structures and sites that provided the setting for the series of stirring episodes on the 19th of April, the old tavern merits and should be destined for eventual status as a projecting part of the proposed national historical park to begin a mile and a quarter away at Meriam's Corner.

The Need for Expansion at the North Bridge: It is the purpose of the discourse provided about the North Bridge as a section of Appendix C to show the manner in which the battleground at the Concord River has been treated since the Minute Men descended upon the British guard of light infantry and "fired the shot heard round the world." No attempt, therefore, will be made to reiterate at this point in the report the story of monumentation and the gradual evolution of the battleground over the years as one of the most cherished and significant of historic sites in the Nation. It is sufficient simply to stress the fact that a larger area than the one now owned and controlled by the Town of Concord is needed in order to give proper scope and meaning to the famous skirmish and other incidents which occurred on both sides of the historic stream.

As an essential forerunner to the achievement of a more ample and satisfying area at the bridge, the Commission recognizes the necessity for a fusion of interest and effort on the part of the Town of Concord and appropriate officials of the Federal Government. It, therefore, has no reservations about prompting the Town and the Secretary of the Interior to work out suitable terms for a cooperative agreement in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

The role of the cooperative agreement as the basic instrument by which a "coordinated program" for historical preservation may be facilitated

has already been emphasized and explained to some extent in connection with Lexington Green and Wright's Tavern, two very significant places in the annals of time that are properly the concern of this report. It goes almost without saying that use of the cooperative agreement is fitting and applicable where historical societies or similar organizations as well as local governments are responsible for historic structures and sites and are working toward the same ends as this Commission.

A case well illustrating this point is that of the Trustees of Reservations, a state chartered but privately supported agency of both scenic and historical preservation, to whom great credit is due for acquiring and saving the Old Manse, which stands not far from the North Bridge. The objectives of the Trustees at the Old Manse correspond so closely with those sought as a whole by the Commission for an expanded area at the bridge that it is conceivable no formal arrangement may be necessary at all in order to effect a permanent understanding of mutual interests. If, however, parallel aims and consonant activities need to be further clarified, it should be a simple matter for officials of the Trustees and the Nation to do so by cooperative agreement.

The flexibility that is possible in the terms of a cooperative agreement makes it a device adaptable to many situations. This being the case, the Commission has not overlooked the inviting aspects of the cooperative agreement as a less costly and disruptive means of reaching the ends it deems essential than by purchasing or otherwise procuring historic properties from private but preservation-minded owners. While there exists a natural predisposition to favor use of the cooperative agreement wherever possible, and the device may be successfully resorted to in a few exceptional cases, its limitations as a safeguard for private

properties are all too readily clear. Most serious is the lack of any lasting assurance that a surviving structure or site will be the recipient of continually adequate protection and care. One owner who may be sympathetic and cooperative with the objectives of historical preservation may be succeeded in time by another who does not share the same point of view or cannot afford to live up to the responsibility he owes to his heritage.

The Commission is fully cognizant of the inadequate size of the area around the North Bridge that is permanently safeguarded and open to the public at the present time. It is also conscious of the shortsighted and inaccurate impression that is made on the minds of the 150,000 or more persons who come every year to view one of the decisive turning points in all history. The need for enlargement of the area to provide a better perspective of the epoch-making event which transpired there is evident and unmistakable. The Commission, consequently, takes particular pains to bring to the attention of the Congress its proposal for an expanded area at the North Bridge under public ownership and control.

A plan showing the enlarged area is provided in Appendix F.

The land on the west side of the river and behind the famous Minute Man Statue contains the site of the old causeway and road that once led to higher ground and the Barrett Farm, two miles away and the farthest reach of the British march on the 19th of April.

The causeway and road over it from the bridge should be uncovered and restored in order to bring true meaning and sense to the existence of the renowned bridge and its significance on the historic day. As a vital part of the proposal to revive the causeway and road, especial attention should be directed toward adequate protection of the outlooks

or vistas both up and down the Concord River. The permanent solution to this problem lies in the acquisition or control by other means of properties on both banks of the stream and inside the minimum boundaries shown on the plan.

More removed from the bridge but no less worthy of notice as features that figured in the morning's action are the hillsides that rise from it on both sides of the river. On the brow of Punkatasset Hill to the west is the muster field where the Minute Men gathered prior to their attack on the British at the bridge. On the east side is the long wooded slope of Ripley Hill, a position occupied by citizens in arms both before and after the fight at the bridge.

These hillsides were as much a part of the historic picture as the bridge itself and the intervening ground between. All of these features should be more closely tied together in order to be more readily discerned by visitors as essential parts of one composite story. All of these features or parts should eventually comprise an expanded area around the bridge and bear a distinct relationship to the proposed national historical park as one of its separate but most significant units.

Besides the above features, which fall within the field of vision from the historic bridge and its immediate vicinity, a number of historic homes and additional vista or buffer strips should be finally ringed in a maximum orbit of protection. These homes include the Elisha Jones or Bullet Hole House, the ancient Buttrick House and the Hunt-Hosmer House.

It is plausible that the character of some of these structures and outlying properties may be adequately safeguarded without immediate

steps being taken to insure their integrity. The Commission, however, prefers to leave the way open both for the negotiation of cooperative agreements with interested and well disposed owners of designated properties and for outright acquisitions by purchase or other means, where imminent development or change may threaten further impairment or loss of the historic landscape.

Acknowledgments of Assistance to the Commission: Some conception of the problem and challenge presented by any undertaking to preserve and revive the scene of major events along the Battle Road of the 19th of April, 1775, was initially called to the attention of the Commission in a forthright and forceful manner by the late Arthur A. Shurcliff, a distinguished landscape architect and planning consultant with many years of experience in the towns and cities of Greater Boston as well as elsewhere in the United States. The Commission had occasion to express to Mr. Shurcliff, before his decease, its profound gratitude not only for his deep concern in the matter but for his recollections of the farsighted planning done in his office more than a quarter of a century ago, but not carried out subsequent thereto.

In 1924, Mr. Shurcliff was employed as consultant to a committee authorized by the State to work out a program for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Revolution to be observed the following year. At that time, Mr. Shurcliff prepared a plan that sought adequate safeguards for the historic countryside and sites along the line of the British march and retreat between Lexington Green and the North Bridge in Concord. Many opinions as to ways and means of accomplishing this task were exchanged and the matter was the subject of lively discussion among members of the State Art Commission, the State Highway Commission, the Boston Chapter of

the American Institute of Architects and of the American Society of Landscape Architects. No action, however, was taken. In a letter to the Commission, Mr. Shurcliff has explained in a broad way why it was not. It is best, perhaps, to let Mr. Shurcliff's words speak for themselves and state why a negative or passive attitude toward the problem is no longer tenable:

> "Why were the landmarks not saved twenty-five years ago? - because they were a part of a quiet countryside, not unlike that of the early days; they needed no marks other than a few inscribed boulders; visitors were chiefly residents of the neighborhood within twenty miles and acquainted with the events and sites. Now tourists come from the near and farthest reaches of the Nation, eager to visit the very ground where the farmers slowed down the British soldiers' seven-mile advance through Lexington, stopped the advance at Concord Bridge and forced it to become an ignominous retreat through all those miles and many a mile more. Thus the Road along which the first battles to win independence were fought led to final victory for our Country. Even more today than in the days of 1925 the need to make /secure the sites of/ a sufficient number of such intervening incidents has become essential. Why today? - because rapid changes in the Roadside appearance are now beginning to engulf and blot out many of the most important ancient landmarks. Fortunately, through your Commission, many such landmarks can be saved and forever preserved as a treasured part of our National History."

Following its introduction to the problem of the Battle Road at the hands of Mr. Shurcliff, the Commission naturally saw fit to investigate the matter with greater care and to explore the practical issues stemming therefrom with appropriate officials of the towns directly involved. It, consequently, is in this connection that the Commission records its sincere appreciation of the timely interest and indispensible cooperation received from members of the Boards of Selectmen and the Planning Boards of the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord, and of the Committee on Parks and Historic Monuments of the latter, which has been more intimately concerned in lieu of the Planning Board. To Mr. Samuel P. Snow, Planning Director of the Lexington Planning Board, the Commission owes particular thanks and an

especial debt of gratitude for his tireless aid and unsparing persistence in procuring the detailed data required about individual properties and their boundaries, and in drawing the maps for Appendix F that define the Commission's proposals.

The invaluable and willing assistance that has come generally from the National Park Service has never failed to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to the Commission. To Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, Regional Director, Region Five, and to members of his staff, the Commission is especially grateful for initiating ideas and providing aid relative to the maps that appear in Appendix F. To Mr. Edgar T. P. Walker, an architectural consultant to the Commission, recognition and thanks are also due for timely help in presenting portions of the historical data furnished on the maps.

The Commission realizes its study would have been of little avail without the services of its full-time staff, consisting of Mr. Edwin W. Small, Chief of Party and Historian to the Commission, and Mrs. Rita A. Farrell, Office Secretary. The no little task of writing and assembling this report with an eye to sound historical judgment and an accurate perspective of the practical problems to be faced in a program of historical preservation has devolved largely upon the above employees.

The custodians of the important depositaries of historical material that are located in Boston and vicinity have been ever ready and willing to make books from their libraries and pertinent documents from their manuscript collections available to the Commission's staff. Most of the source materials on which the chronological narrative in Appendix B is built are to be found in printed form, and have been evaluated and used heretofore by one or more historical writers. As a result, the

quantity of known sources that are neither explored nor published is sparse. The Commission, however, is appreciative of the kindness of Mr. Stephen T. Riley, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Professor Robert E. Moody of Boston University in furnishing rarely used and recently found contemporary and retrospective accounts of occurrences on the historic day.

The superb library and collection of old photographs in the Boston Athenaeum have been near at hand and convenient for the Commission's historian to consult. For the courtesy of graciously opening these facilities to meet its current needs, the Commission is indebted to one of its own members, Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill, who is Director and Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum.

Photographs, measured drawings and similar materials that comprise the documentary substance for architectural history and historical preservation are related to the broader and more conventional fields of history but are not always found in any abundance in the principal historical libraries and storehouses for documentary materials. For assistance in this special category of historical data, the Commission would be remiss if it does not mention the files of photographs and miscellaneous items relating specifically to individual buildings and structures at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The collections of the Society in this field are unique and have been unusually helpful. They include articles that have appeared from time to time in the Society's quarterly publication, Old-Time New England. The Commission, therefore, wishes forthwith to record both its esteem and gratitude for the valuable but all too infrequently recognized accomplishments of the Society in this field.

Acknowledgments and thanks for essential help in the same category of materials are owed to several local societies and institutions - the Arlington Historical Society, the Lexington Historical Society, the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, the Concord Antiquarian Society and the Concord Free Public Library. The Hosmer Collection of Plates at the latter was a discovery of real interest and value to the Commission. For reproducing selected views from this collection and taking up-to-date photographs that are used in Appendix G, the Commission appreciates the cooperation that was received from Mr. Keith Martin, a Concord photographer.

Real Estate Costs of Recommended Properties: The Commission senses that its recommendations specifically with regard to the acquisition of private properties for the purpose of the proposed national historical park will be of little avail to the Congress without an accurate determination of logical boundaries and a fair estimate or appraisal of real estate costs. The Commission's work, consequently, has included a thorough investigation and study of these matters. The results thereof are summarized and analyzed herewith in a manner the Commission feels may be most helpful.

The discussion in the preceding pages of this report has attempted to make it clear that properties recommended for the proposed park are grouped in two major areas. These areas are shown on maps as part of Appendix F. For convenience in providing a ready analysis of estimated costs and urgent recommendations for a program of land acquisition, these areas are further identified and defined as the following units:

Unit A - The most extensive of the two areas proposed for acquisition and treatment as a national historical park, this unit would embrace a total of 557 acres of properties along both sides of the Battle Road in the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord. While the unit would be a little more than four miles long and make up a continuous stretch from Route 128 in Lexington to Meriam's Corner in Concord, its breadth would be sufficient only to cover the scope of the running fight on the 19th of April, 1775, and the barest minimum essential for buffer strips and to maintain existing or natural boundaries. This being the case, the concept of both minimum and maximum boundaries has not been applied in determining the extent of the properties that should be acquired.

Besides the State highway and portions of town roads that pass through the area, 33 acres out of the total of 557 acres of roadside properties are already in public ownership. These are in the hands of the Federal Government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord, and the Lexington Historical Society. The 524 acres that are privately owned and need to be acquired by purchase or other means are shown in the tabular analysis which follows on page 41. The analysis is made for the total number of both vacant and improved parcels in each town and includes assessed and market values.

Unit B - The existing nucleus for more ample treatment of the famous battleground at the North Bridge in Concord consists of the bridge itself and 4.4 acres owned by the Town of Concord, mainly on the east side of the river, and the adjoining Old Manse property of 6.7 acres, faithfully preserved by the Trustees of Reservations. The area in public ownership around these outstanding historical properties would be enlarged by acquiring 36.7 acres of both vacant and improved private parcels lying inside the minimum boundaries depicted by plan in Appendix F. Finally, the unit thus formed would be further increased in size by adding 57.8 acres of privately owned vacant parcels situated between minimum and maximum boundaries.

Improved or built-up parcels, some of which contain significant private dwellings of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, also exist within the maximum boundaries shown on the plan and occupy a total of 47.1 acres. For reasons already presented and discussed, the Commission does not foresee the necessity of acquiring these properties until the efficacy of cooperative agreements and other means of control short of public ownership are thoroughly explored and found wanting. For completeness and forehandedness in planning, however, the tabulation of private properties on page 41 includes assessed and market values for improved parcels that lie between the minimum and maximum boundaries set for Unit B.

The onrush of residential, commercial and industrial building continues to swell and transform the rapidly diminishing countryside. As a result, those parcels among private properties yet vacant and relatively unspoiled as specimens of the historic landscape are increasingly menaced by the threat of being developed or impaired beyond the point of recognition. This distressing situation weighs heavily upon the Commission and is a compelling and forceful reason for it to recommend and urge that the Congress take immediate steps to authorize the establishment of a national historical park and appropriate funds in order to initiate a program of land acquisition.

It will be far more satisfactory and economical to prevent further mistakes in the management of the traditional setting from taking place now than to try to correct or eliminate them later. Consequently, it is with intentional emphasis on the foremost problem of procuring and saving vacant or unimproved parcels, particularly in Unit A, that the following breakdown of the estimated costs of private properties has been prepared.

The figures as a whole, of course, aim to cover all of the vacant and improved parcels in Unit A and Unit B that need to be acquired:

Private Properties

Unit A

Vacant or Unimproved Parcels

Subdivision	No.	Acres	Value Assessed	Value Market
Lexington	42	66.05	$ 34,890	$ 122,100
Lincoln	59	111.51	33,350	202,750
Concord	15	37.88	10,050	57,150
Total	116	215.44	$ 78,290	$ 382,000

Improved Parcels or Parcels with Buildings

Subdivision	No.	Acres	Value Assessed	Value Market
Lexington	29	56.85	$ 212,020	$ 576,300
Lincoln	101	190.56	559,550	2,563,000
Concord	28	61.73	148,350	631,400
Total	158	309.14	$ 919,920	$3,770,700
Grand Total	274	524.58	$ 998,210	$4,152,700

Unit B

Vacant or Unimproved Parcels

Subdivision	No.	Acres	Value Assessed	Value Market
Minimum	4	20.84	$ 3,450	$ 6,800
*Maximum	14	57.86	19,075	63,600
Total	18	78.70	$ 22,525	$ 70,400

Improved Parcels or Parcels with Buildings

Subdivision	No.	Acres	Value Assessed	Value Market
Minimum	2	15.82	$ 11,950	$ 51,000
*Maximum	17	47.14	220,950	564,000
Total	19	62.96	$ 232,900	$ 615,000
Grand Total	37	141.66	$ 255,425	$ 685,400

*In addition to Minimum.

Recapitulation

	No.	Acres	Value Assessed	Value Market
Unit A	274	524.58	$ 998,210	$4,152,700
Unit B	37	141.66	255,425	685,400
Grand Total	311	666.24	$1,253,635	$4,838,100

On the basis of the relevant data thus furnished, including an appraisal of market values for vacant and improved parcels in both units, the Commission wishes summarily to offer its recommendations for a general order of priority to be pursued in a program of land acquisition.

The urgency and importance of gaining control of the vacant parcels in Unit A are again stressed as these parcels are given the highest priority in the listing that follows. Though vacant and improved parcels inside the minimum boundaries for Unit B are shown separately for reasons of consistency and uniformity in presentation, both types of parcels are of about equal significance and priority for the major historic area of which they should become a closer part and no real distinction should be made between them:

Private Properties

Priority Number	Type of Parcel	Unit and Subdivision	Estimated Cost
1.	Vacant	A	$ 382,000
2.	Vacant	B, Minimum	6,800
3.	Improved	B, Minimum	51,000
4.	Vacant	B, Maximum	63,600
5.	Improved	A	3,770,700
6.	*Improved	B, Maximum	564,000
		Grand Total	$4,838,100

*Subsequent to experimentation with, and as an ultimate alternative to, cooperative agreements or similar arrangements with private owners.

With the above analysis and recommendations, this special interim report is concluded.

The Revolution made by the ardent Samuel Adams and other zealous patriots in Boston and the War started at Lexington and Concord comprise what is, fundamentally, the most important combination of events in American history, for in the end they achieved Independence and brought into existence

a new Nation. Those events which transpired on the 19th of April, 1775, clearly and unmistakably broke the ground and paved the way for all that America has accomplished since. The remaining structures and sites that provided the setting for those epic events are worthy of the last chance that is now afforded to the Nation to save and safeguard them forever.

The members of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission affix their signatures firmly convinced that this report should be but the preliminaries to attainments in an undertaking that will both permanently and inspiringly bind future generations of Americans to their illustrious heritage.

Mrs. Louise duP. Crowninshield

Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

This report is submitted with the knowledge and consent of
Hon. Leverett Saltonstall. Senator Leverett Saltonstall. *

Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth

Dr. John P. Sullivan
Executive Secretary

Mr. Mark Bortman
Chairman

* Endorsement of the report has been deferred because of the Senator's membership on the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, which may be required to consider any recommendations resulting from this report that call for the expenditure of Federal funds.

APPENDIX A

Letter in The Boston Sunday Globe, July 15, 1956

Column entitled What People Talk About

Captioned "Is Historic Boston Missing The Boat at Bunker Hill, Lexington and Concord?"

To the Editor:-

My wife and I have just arrived home from a visit to Boston and we are both sad and disturbed.

Is that small run-down area really Bunker Hill?

Is that tiny area all the space in Lexington and Concord you have to spare to commemorate the epic events that occurred there?

Has all the world forgotten?

Don't the residents of your section realize how vital to the world are the events that occurred there?

I am not blaming anyone, but the Cradle of Democracy should be a beautiful place, magnificent and shining for every one to come and worship.

A wide parkway should be built into and around Bunker Hill with parking space, a hostel, all manner of descriptive material with a museum of every detail of arms, clothing, printed matter it is possible to assemble - just like there is at Valley Forge and Gettysburg.

The whole district, including Lexington and Concord, should be a national park district with hotels and attendants in colonial style.

Every detail of the times and events should be presented each year in the form of a pageant, supplementing the historic ride of Paul Revere, and thereby keeping our previous tradition of heroic sacrifice for Democracy alive.

I believe people from all over the world would come to Boston if you would make it easy for them to come into and get around to the places of interest and get out to Lexington and Concord.

You are missing the greatest source of income from a natural resource and neglecting your proud duty as custodians of the immortal traditions.

To finance such a program you can ask the national government for one of those billions we are giving away to foreign countries.

APPENDIX B

Chronology of Incidents Relating to the 19th of April, 1775, the Opening Day of the War of the American Revolution.

The Revolutionary War of deeds, which began in earnest on the 19th of April, 1775, was preceded by a long and no less significant war of words, with Boston as the principal center of agitation and objective of royal coercion. Fully living up to her reputation as the "Metropolis of Sedition," Boston was where the first British regiments were sent in 1768 to enforce, what seemed to the inhabitants, the harsh and tyrannical measures of a new British colonial imperialism and to quell the rebellious rumblings of a people possessed not only of an ardent passion for freedom but a jealous knowledge of self-government.

The presence of the royal troops provoked the famous Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. They were removed from the town temporarily, but were back again in greater numbers after the port was closed by act of Parliament following further defiant demonstrations by mobs and the populace in general. Of these demonstrations, the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773, was an illustrious example.

Tension between patriots and the soldiery had mounted to the breaking point and more reinforcements were on the way to aid in the increasingly difficult task of maintaining the King's rule when General Thomas Gage, the military governor of the province, decided to take more positive measures to curb the bold enterprise of the patriot leaders. The most important of these measures for which preparations began to be made in March, 1775, was a plan to send an expeditionary force to Lexington and Concord to destroy powder and other military supplies.

The incidents listed in the chronological narrative below are indicated by date, day of the week and the nearest hour or half hour, if known or possible to estimate. Where the hour is uncertain or cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of accuracy, nothing more definite than the part of the day is shown. This is the case with incidents that occurred before the 18th and 19th of April and, hence, are not quite so closely tied together.

Explanatory notes on matters of historical interest and commentaries on historic properties surviving or otherwise related to the incidents are added where applicable. If extensive, these remarks are either in parenthesis or covered by separate reference and treatment in Appendix C.

March 20, 1775 - Monday

Morning

General Gage, Military Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, contemplating future operations into the country, sent Captain Brown of the 52nd Regiment, Ensign De Berniere of the 10th Regiment and a private on a secret scouting trip from Boston to Roxbury, Brookline, Weston, Sudbury and Concord. The three were well armed and so strikingly disguised in "brown cloathes and reddish handkerchiefs" that they were readily recognized as spying British soldiers. They, nevertheless, obtained useful information bearing on the topographical features of the landscape and, with the help of a friend of the royal government, learned about the location of military stores being collected at Concord by the Committees of Safety and Supplies set up by the Provincial Congress. Plans for a night march began to be laid as soon as Brown and De Berniere returned from their mission.

(Daniel Bliss, a Tory, who lived near the mill pond in the center of Concord, assisted Brown and De Berniere. He left town with them never to return again.)

April 15, 1775 - Saturday

Morning

The grenadiers and light infantry, comprising the flank companies of the British regiments in Boston, were taken "off all duties 'till further orders." The reasons given for this step were "Exercise and new evolutions." Paul Revere and his self-appointed patrol of patriots noticed the removal of these troops from their normal duties and reported the fact to Dr. Joseph Warren, who in turn relayed the intelligence to the Committee of Safety. Preparations for an expedition into the country to seize the military stores at Concord, some 18 miles distant, were at once suspected.

Afternoon

The Provincial Congress, meeting at Concord as the legislative body representative of patriots in the Province of Massachusetts Bay and in defiance of the military governor in Boston, adjourned. John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who had attended, went to Lexington to stay with the Reverend Jonas Clarke, who resided in the dwelling that is preserved by the Lexington Historical Society and known today as the Hancock-Clarke House.

(See Hancock-Clarke House, Appendix C. The site of the meetinghouse where the Provincial Congress met late in 1774 and early again in 1775 to lay plans for rebellion is marked by a fitting tablet in front of the present First Parish Church, Unitarian, on the south side of Lexington Road near the central square of Concord.)

April 16, 1775 - Sunday

Midnight or soon after

Paul Revere observed "about 12 oClock at Night, the Boats belonging to the Transports were all launched, & carried under the sterns of the men of War." They had previously been hauled up for repairs. This move was further interpreted as preparatory to an expedition, especially one that would carry troops by water across the Back Bay to the Cambridge shore.

Morning

Paul Revere rode to Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams about the British preparations in Boston.

Evening

Returning to Boston through Charlestown, Revere "agreed with a Col. Conant, and some other Gentlemen, that if the British went out by water, we would shew two lanthorns in the North Church Steeple; and if by land, one as a signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to cross the Charles River, or to git over Boston neck." This arrangement was made, not to inform Revere, but to notify Colonel Conant and the "other Gentlemen" so they could send word to Lexington and elsewhere if Revere should run into difficulty or be halted by the British in attempting to cross the Charles River or ride out via Boston Neck and Roxbury.

(The Old North Church or Christ Church in Boston still survives and will be discussed in the final report of the Commission.)

April 17, 1775 - Monday

Morning

The Committees of Safety and Supplies in session at Concord received word of the British preparations in Boston, probably from John Hancock to whom Paul Revere had delivered the message in Lexington the day before. Whereupon the Committees voted to transport some of the cannon at Concord to places of greater safety in adjacent towns. The Committees also voted to adjourn and meet again the next day at "Mr. Wetherby's, at Menotomy," also known as the Black Horse Tavern.

(The Black Horse Tavern no longer exists, but its site on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue between Tufts and Foster Streets in the present Arlington has been marked by a stone tablet.)

April 18, 1775 - Tuesday

Morning

As voted on the previous day, "four six-pounders" were hauled away from Concord and started on the way to Groton, about 18 miles northwest of Concord.

Afternoon

General Gage sent out mounted officers from Boston to patrol the road between Cambridge and Concord. A British patrol of ten or more horsemen dined at the Black Horse Tavern before riding farther out into the country.

Jasper, a Boston gunsmith, heard about the intended march of the troops from a British sergeant.

John Ballard, a stableman, overheard a remark in the Province House to the effect that there would be "hell to pay to-morrow." The Province House was the residence of the military governor, General Gage.

> (The site of the Province House, on Washington Street opposite Milk Street and the Old South Meetinghouse, is marked by a bronze tablet. Built originally in 1667 as a home for Peter Sergeant, a prosperous merchant, it was bought by the Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1715 for a governor's residence. It was used for offices by the state for a time after the Revolution, but was serving commercial purposes when largely destroyed by fire in 1864.)

The cannon sent from Concord arrived at Groton. The Groton Minute Men, curious about the arrival of the "six-pounders," assembled promptly and nine of them started for Concord, arriving the next morning long before the British troops entered the town and joining the ranks of the Militia who came from points nearer in answer to the alarm.

6:30 P.M.

Solomon Brown, a young man of Lexington who had been to market in Boston, arrived home at sunset with the news that he had overtaken and passed the patrol of British officers on the road. He reported his observations to Sergeant William Munroe, proprietor of the Munroe Tavern.

> (The site of the home of Solomon Brown at East Lexington has been marked. The Munroe Tavern, which was the scene of incidents the next day, has been preserved. See Appendix C.)

Shortly after, an express rider arrived with a message for John Hancock from the Committee of Safety sitting at the Black Horse Tavern. The British patrol had been seen at Menotomy and their presence was a subject of suspicion.

7:00 P.M.

William Munroe, Sergeant of the Lexington Minute Men, collected eight men in his company as a result of hearing the news from these sources and posted a guard at the Hancock-Clarke House.

Richard Devens of the Committee of Safety, riding toward Charlestown from Menotomy after sundown, met the British patrol on the road to Lexington.

8:00 P.M.

The British horsemen rode through the village of Lexington without attempting to molest John Hancock and Samuel Adams. There is a tradition, however, that three of them, coming into the village, entered the home of Matthew Mead and helped themselves to the day's baking of brown bread and beans. The patrol continued on the old Bay Road to Lincoln.

(The small dwelling occupied by Matthew Mead no longer stands. It was replaced by the later Russell House, part of which dates back to 1779. The Bay Road, also known as the County Road, is part of the Lexington-Concord Battle Road.)

As soon as the British patrol was through Lexington, about 40 Minute Men gathered at the Buckman Tavern, which still stands beside Lexington Green.

(See Buckman Tavern and Lexington Green, Appendix C.)

8:30 P.M.

The British patrol passed the farmhouse of Sergeant Samuel Hartwell of the Lincoln Minute Men and was seen by Sukey, a slave girl, who was gathering chips in the dooryard for the next morning's fire. She thought the patrol was a funeral procession and reported it as such to Mary Hartwell. After riding a mile or two farther on the Concord Road, the patrol wheeled about and rode back toward Lexington.

(The Sergeant Samuel Hartwell House remains today. See Appendix C.)

9:00 P.M.

The Lexington Minute Men sent out scouts on horseback to locate and watch the movements of the British patrol. Elijah Sanderson, later a famous Salem cabinetmaker, Jonathan Loring and Solomon Brown, who had first spotted the horsemen on the way home from Boston, volunteered for this duty.

10:00 P.M.

The three scouts from Lexington were seized at pistol point by the British patrol in Lincoln and led into a pasture through a bar-way in a stone wall on the north side of the road. They were held there for four hours.

(This site has been transformed, but its acquisition and revival as part of a national historical park is a major proposal of the Commission. The ride of Paul Revere also ended with his capture at the same place three hours later.)

The grenadiers and light infantry in Boston "were not apprised of the design, till just as it was time to march, they were waked by the sergeants putting their hands on them and whispering gently to them; and were even conducted by a back way out of the barracks, without the knowledge of their comrades, and without the observation of the sentries."

Dr. Joseph Warren had the news almost before the British had left their barracks. He sent for Paul Revere and William Dawes, Jr. Dawes came first and was dispatched over the route, longer by four miles, to Lexington via Boston Neck, Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge and Menotomy. Revere arrived at Warren's house after Dawes had left.

(The site of Warren's house on Hanover Street in Boston is now occupied by a parking lot. A tablet erected in 1898 is missing.)

10:30 P.M.

Paul Revere bid Captain John Pulling, Jr., have two lanterns hung in the steeple of the Old North Church. He then went home, got his boots and surtout, and hurried to the north part of the town, where he kept a boat and was rowed by two friends across the Charles River "a little to the eastward where the Somerset man-of-war lay."

(The Paul Revere House in North Square, Boston, has been restored. It will be discussed in the final report of the Commission. Captain Pulling resided at the corner of Ann and Cross Streets, two blocks from North Square. The home of Robert Newman, the sexton who displayed the signal lanterns on being called by Pulling, stood until 1889 at the corner of Salem and Sheafe Streets near the Old North Church. Joshua Bentley and Thomas Richardson were the two friends who rowed Revere across the river. Their oars were muffled by a petticoat, "yet warm from the body of a fair daughter of Liberty," who lived in the Ochterlong-Adan House, long since gone at the corner of North and North Centre Streets. Revere's boat was kept near the Charlestown Ferry, at the foot of Prince Street.)

The British detachment of about 700 men assembled at the foot of Boston Common under general command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith of the 10th Regiment and with Major John Pitcairn of the Marines in charge of the light infantry. Embarkation in boats on the Back Bay began.

(The place where the troops entered the boats was probably near the present corner of Boylston and Charles Streets, where the shore line of the Back Bay then extended back from the Charles River. The Back Bay was later filled in and the old shore line completely lost.)

The British in Boston became well aware of the fact that the secret of the expedition had not been kept successfully. Earl Percy in crossing Boston Common, after being confidentially informed by General Gage that the soldiers were going out and he might be called upon later to follow with a relief force, heard one man say to another, "The British troops have marched, but they will miss their aim." "What aim?" inquired Percy. "Why," the man replied, "the cannon at Concord." Percy got in touch with Gage at once and repeated what he had heard.

11:00 P.M.

Revere arrived on the Charlestown side and was met by Colonel Conant and others who had seen the light of the signal lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church. Richard Devens of the Committee of Safety was also there and, upon being informed by Revere that the troops "were actually in the boats," procured a horse for him from Deacon Larkin and sent him off "to give the intelligence at Menotomy and Lexington." Before his departure, Revere was told by Devens about the British patrol he had met on the road after sundown.

(Revere landed at a wharf off Water Street, just north of the present Charlestown Bridge and near City Square. From there, he rode out the present Main Street and headed for Cambridge.)

11:30 P.M.

Beyond Charlestown Neck, the present Sullivan Square, Revere was confronted by two British horsemen waiting under a tree at a crossroads, "nearly opposite where Mark was hung in chains." Turning his horse abruptly, Revere galloped back toward the Neck and took the road for Medford, where he awakened Captain Hull of the Minute Men before proceeding to Menotomy, alarming almost every house on the way.

(The British horsemen who barred Revere's path were on Cambridge Street at the present Charlestown-Somerville line. A stone tablet, not too easily seen, marks the spot opposite Crescent Street. At the time, the body of Mark, a negro slave, executed in 1755 for poisoning his master, Captain Codman, still hung from its gibbet as a warning against crime. After wheeling his horse, Revere rode over the present Broadway in Somerville to Winter Hill, where he bore to the right on Main Street into the center of Medford. His route from there to Menotomy, the present Arlington, carried him over High Street. A stone tablet on Winter Hill indicates the fork in the road taken by Revere.)

April 19, 1775 - Wednesday

Midnight or soon after

Revere arrived at the Hancock-Clarke House in Lexington. Sergeant Munroe of the Lexington Minute Men was stationed at the front door and refused to let Revere pass, stating that the family had retired and did not wish to be disturbed by any noise around the house. Whereupon Revere cried out, "Noise! You'll have noise enough before long. The Regulars are coming out!"

12:30 A.M.

William Dawes, Jr., arriving at the Hancock-Clarke House from his longer ride over Boston Neck via Roxbury and Cambridge, set out for Concord with Revere. On his ride, Dawes had managed to elude the British sentries on Boston Neck by mingling in the darkness with some soldiers who were going his way.

After the arrival, first of Revere, and then Dawes, the bell in the belfry that stood on Lexington Green near the meetinghouse rang out the alarm and the Lexington Minute Men, about 130 in number, under Captain John Parker, began to assemble. It took some little time for the men on outlying farms to be summoned and to get to town.

Dr. Samuel Prescott, who had spent the evening with his sweetheart, Miss Mulliken, in Lexington, started on his journey of six miles home to Concord. He overtook Revere and Dawes, who were soon satisfied that he was "a high Son of Liberty."

Dawes and Prescott rode into the dooryard of a house near the Lexington-Lincoln line and, on knocking at the door, found Nathaniel Baker, a Lincoln Minute Man, still courting a Concord lass, Elizabeth Taylor, who was visiting there. Baker, who lived in South Lincoln, spread the alarm on his way home. With his father, brothers and brother-in-law, he was at Concord Bridge in the morning with the Lincoln Minute Men. He married Elizabeth Taylor in 1776.

(The site where this incident occurred is for certain included within the boundaries of the proposed park. The Muzzey House, on the north side of the old road not far from the Lincoln boundary, is the only dwelling in the immediate locality today that was in existence in 1775. It was built about 1743. See Appendix C.)

1:00 A.M.

Dawes and Prescott were riding about 200 yards behind Revere when the latter was surprised by two British officers in the road near the opening into the pasture where the three Lexington

scouts had been taken prisoners three hours earlier. Dawes turned his horse quickly and sped down the road back toward Lexington, pursued by two British horsemen who came through the bar-way from the pasture. He made good his escape by galloping up to a farmhouse and faking an ambush that frightened off the pursuing officers.

Prescott and Revere tried to push their way past the officers in the road, but, armed with pistols and swords, the officers forced them through the bars into the pasture. Pulling to the left, Prescott jumped his horse over a stone wall and escaped down a farm path by a swamp to continue his ride and carry the alarm to Concord. Revere made for a wood at the foot of the pasture, but just as he reached it, six of the British officers who were holding the three captured Lexington men, grabbed his bridle, put pistols to his breast and forced him to dismount. Thus ended the famous ride of Paul Revere.

(The site of Revere's capture is marked by a tablet erected in 1899. It is included in the proposed park area.)

1:30 A.M.

Captain Parker dismissed his men on Lexington Green with orders to respond again at the beating of the drum. Those who did not live near enough to go home repaired to the Buckman Tavern.

Eluding two of the British horsemen who pursued him as far as a swamp, Dr. Samuel Prescott came out of a thicket into a field behind the house of Sergeant Samuel Hartwell of the Lincoln Minute Men. He rode up to the back of the house and rapped loudly on the kitchen door, awakening all of the family and requesting that the news be speeded to Captain William Smith of the Lincoln Minute Men, who lived a short distance back on the road to Lexington.

Sukey, the slave girl, in terror of the British, refused to leave the house, so Mary Hartwell, the Sergeant's wife, placing her five-months' old infant in Sukey's arms, rushed out the door and down the road in the darkness to Captain Smith's house. The latter mounted his horse and hastened to Lincoln Center, two miles to the south, where the two Lincoln companies eventually assembled and started off for Concord. They were the first companies to reach Concord from any of the neighboring towns.

(The Sergeant Samuel Hartwell House and the Captain William Smith House survive and should be permanently safeguarded within the proposed park. See Appendix C.)

Following his capture, Paul Revere was interrogated by the British horsemen, who became seriously disturbed when he told them the people for a distance of 50 miles into the country were being notified about their intended march. Major Mitchell of

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the 5th British Regiment gave orders for the prisoners to mount and the party to ride back toward Lexington. Revere's horse was led by the bridle in front and officers formed a circle around the three Lexington scouts and a peddler, who had also been stopped by the British patrol.

2:00 A.M.

As the British officers and their prisoners rode down the road to Lexington, the hoof-beats of their horses awakened Josiah Nelson, a Lincoln Minute Man, who had been appointed to keep watch and carry the alarm to Bedford if the British marched. When his wife heard the sound of voices, she thought neighboring farmers must be getting an early start to market and told her husband he better hurry and find out if the farmers had any news of the British before they got past the house.

Leaving his bed hurriedly and slipping on his breeches, Nelson ran out into the road without looking up to make sure who the horsemen were and called out, "Have you heard anything about when the Regulars are coming out?" One of the officers, reaching for his sword, replied in anger, "We will let you know when they are coming!" and struck Nelson on the crown of his head, cutting a long gash. Thus was drawn the first blood on the opening morning of the Revolution!

Nelson was taken prisoner, but was soon released and returned home to have his wife bind up his wound and dispatch him on horseback to Bedford, where he spread the alarm.

(The site of Josiah Nelson's farmhouse is in a tract of about eight acres to be designated as a national historic site. The tract, part of a total purchase of 180 acres for the Air Force in March, 1957, also contains the Minute Man Boulder and stone walls from which the Minute Men fired on the British in retreat later in the day. The entire tract of eight acres should be included in the proposed park.)

Upon the arrival of Dr. Prescott, Concord was alarmed by the ringing of the Town House bell. With gun in hand, Reverend William Emerson, grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who had built the Old Manse in 1769, was the first to answer the alarm. Three companies of Minute Men and an alarm company soon followed and gathered at Wright's Tavern in the town square. Reuben Brown, a saddler, was sent to Lexington to confirm the news brought by Dr. Prescott. The task of removing and concealing the military stores that had not been sent away the day before began.

// (Concord's first Town House, erected in 1721 and used both for town meetings and the county courts, stood until 1794. The Old Manse is preserved by the Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations. Both Wright's Tavern and the Reuben Brown House also survive. See Appendix C.)

The British grenadiers and light infantry, who began to embark in boats on the Back Bay from Boston Common about 10:30 P.M. the evening before, crossed to Lechmere Point in East Cambridge, opposite the north end of Boston. As the boats were heavily loaded and could not be run in close, the troops had to wade ashore on marsh land, "wet up to the knees." They then waited "in a dirty road" as much as three hours "for provisions to be brought up from the boats and divided." Each soldier then received a day's rations and 36 rounds of ammunition. This delay was serious as it gave the country people more time to get the news and assemble.

The troops were finally ready to advance about 2:00 A.M. They forded Willis Creek, which flowed into the Charles at East Cambridge, and got soaked to the waist in order to prevent the sound of their tramping feet on the planks of the bridge from giving alarm. From there, they proceeded through the west end of Charlestown, now Somerville, and took a road skirting the northern part of Cambridge to Menotomy.

(The landing place of the British in East Cambridge is marked by a stone tablet at the corner of Otis and Second Streets. Bullard's Bridge, where the British waded across Willis Creek, has been obliterated by the surge of urban growth. Only the outlet of Miller's River, surrounded by railroad yards, remains as evidence of the former Willis Creek.)

2:30 A.M.

Thomas Robins and David Harrington of Lexington, who were carrying milk to Boston, were captured by the expeditionary force in Cambridge and compelled to return to Lexington with the soldiers. They were probably the first prisoners taken by the advancing column.

Paul Revere, the three Lexington scouts and the peddler were let loose near the village of Lexington and the British patrol rode off in haste toward Menotomy. Revere made his way across a "burying ground and some pastures" to the Hancock-Clarke House to help with the flight of John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

These important patriots were taken first in a chaise to the house of Captain James Reed in a part of Woburn that is now Burlington, about two miles away, and then a little farther to the home of Madame Jones, a clergyman's widow. At the latter, they were joined later in the morning by Hancock's betrothed, Dorothy Quincy, and his aunt, Mrs. Thomas Hancock, who had also been guests of the Reverend Jonas Clarke.

The ladies brought with them a "fine salmon" that Hancock and Adams had forgotten in their hasty departure before sunrise.

The party was about to sit down and make a meal of it when a Lexington farmer rushed in with a false rumor that the British were coming. They continued their flight and finally sat down to a repast of "cold salt pork and potatoes served on a wooden tray" at Amos Wyman's in Billerica, a distance of more than four miles from the Lexington parsonage they had left earlier in the day.

(None of the three houses to which Hancock and Adams fled remain intact. The natural setting of the Captain James Reed House was ruined in constructing the circumferential highway, Route 128, west of Boston. The building, surrounded by gravel pits, still stood on its original base until moved away and set up elsewhere in 1956. Besides furnishing refuge to Hancock and Adams in their flight, the Reed House was where the first British soldiers taken prisoners in the Revolution were escorted after their capture. They were stragglers, five in number, left behind as the main body of troops marched on to Concord from Lexington Green. A modern dwelling rests on the foundation of the structure that was occupied in 1775 by the Widow Jones in the present Burlington. It was better known later as the Sewell House. The cellar-hole of the Amos Wyman Homestead and one acre of land around it, two miles beyond, are owned by the Billerica Historical Society. In 1898, the latter had an appropriate inscription cut on a large boulder in the yard near the cellar-hole.)

3:00 A.M.

The British expedition arrived at Menotomy, where three members of the Committee of Safety from Marblehead - Colonel Jeremiah Lee, Colonel Azor Orne and Elbridge Gerry, later Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Vice President of the United States - were spending the night at the Black Horse Tavern following a session of the Committee. As the troops marched by, Gerry and his associates "arose from their beds to gaze on the unwonted spectacle" and, upon the approach of an officer and file of soldiers to search the house, fled out the back door in their nightclothes and hid in a field of corn stubble.

Six companies of light infantry under Major Pitcairn were detached about this time and sent on ahead of the main body with the objective of securing the two bridges at Concord. The British commander was obviously worried about his slow progress and his anxiety was not diminished when the patrol that had taken and then released Paul Revere trotted down the road from Lexington with reports of an aroused countryside. A request for reinforcements was promptly sent back to Boston.

4:00 A.M.

General Gage, pondering the failure to keep the expedition a secret as a result of what Earl Percy had reported the previous evening, ordered Percy to start out from Boston via Roxbury at this hour with a relief force of 1000 men. The order was issued without waiting to receive the request for help sent by Lieutenant Colonel Smith from Menotomy an hour before. Blunders in relaying the order to Percy delayed his start by five hours.

Colonel James Barrett of the Concord Militia, after answering the first alarm, returned to his farmhouse, two miles west of the center of town, where some of the military supplies were still stored and much work remained to be done at daybreak to place them beyond the reach of the British.

Musket balls, flints and cartridges were put into barrels in the attic and covered with feathers, and kegs of powder were hauled into the woods behind the house and hidden. A plow and yoke of oxen were gotten out and the barrels of light cannon and muskets were covered by laying them down in furrows turned up in an adjoining field. It has been asserted that the plowman was still at work when the British came in sight around 8:30 A.M.

(The Colonel James Barrett House and Farm exist in good condition but are not marked nor recognized in any way. See Appendix C.)

4:30 A.M.

Thaddeus Bowman, the last of four scouts sent down the road from Lexington toward Menotomy to find out how near the British were, returned with the news they were less than half a mile away. The three scouts who preceded Bowman had been taken by a small guard of British flankers sent out ahead of Pitcairn's companies of light infantry.

The drum was beat and the Minute Men reassembled on Lexington Green, some coming from the Buckman Tavern and others from their homes. Those without powder entered the meetinghouse on the Green to draw from the town's supply that was kept there. Finally, 77 men of Captain Parker's company were lined up in a double row on the triangle formed by the Green to await the arrival of the British. In the words of a later historian, deeply infused with a sense of the significance of this move, "They stood there, not merely as soldiers, but as citizens, nay, almost as statesmen, having the destiny of the country in their hands."

(The drum used by William Dimond, drummer in Captain Parker's company, to summon the Minute Men has been preserved by the Lexington Historical Society.)

Benjamin Wellington, a Minute Man of East Lexington, was surprised by the advance party of the approaching British and disarmed. He soon borrowed another gun, however, and hastened to join his comrades on the Green. Wellington is alleged to have been the first armed man taken in the Revolution.

(A stone tablet marks the spot where Wellington was captured and disarmed.)

Paul Revere and a clerk went to the Buckman Tavern to remove a trunk of papers that belonged to John Hancock. Before they left, daylight was breaking and they were able to see the column of the British light infantry marching up the road to Lexington Green.

5:00 A.M.

Major Pitcairn saw the Minute Men drawn up to oppose him and formed his men into line of battle. Captain Parker then gave his famous order to his company: "Stand your ground! Don't fire unless fired upon! But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!" Whereupon Pitcairn rode to the front of his ranks and shouted to the men in Parker's lines, "Lay down your arms, you damned rebels and disperse!" Realizing at last how badly he was outnumbered and how futile his situation was, Parker ordered his men to file away, but not before a single shot rang out and a volley from a British platoon. Another volley followed and, with bayonets levelled, the Redcoats charged. Eight men were killed and ten more, wounded, were able to get away with their fleeing comrades. The first American blood had been fatally shed!

Jonathan Harrington, Jr., mortally wounded, was able to drag himself to the door of his house, opposite the northwest corner of the Green, where he died at his wife's feet. Even more heroic in death was the brave Jonas Parker, cousin of the Captain, who had fired once and yet stood his ground though wounded by a bullet and sinking to his knees. He was trying to reload, with bullets, wadding and flints in his hat tossed at his feet, when finally cut down by a bayonet thrust.

The main body of the British soon came upon the Green. A cheer rose in token of the victory and "the musick struck up" as the troops started down the road for Concord. Any illusion as to the secrecy of their mission was now completely gone.

(The bodies of the eight Minute Men who gave their lives were placed in a tomb, in 1835, behind the Monument that was erected on Lexington Green in 1799. The Jonathan Harrington House still stands and is suitably marked.)

6:00 A.M.

The tramp of the Regulars drawing near was heard by Mary Hartwell, the young wife of Sergeant Samuel Hartwell, who had been awakened earlier and had run to Captain William Smith of the Lincoln Minute Men with the news brought by Dr. Prescott. In the absence of her husband, who had ridden off to join his company in Lincoln, she had done the morning chores at the barn and was back in the house when she saw the bright red line of troops swinging up the road from the east. In later years, she used to repeat her impression of the dazzling spectacle somewhat as follows: "The army of the King marched up in fine order, and their bayonets glistened in the sunlight like a field of waving grain. If it hadn't been for the purpose they came for, I should say it was the handsomest sight I ever saw in my life."

The two companies of Lincoln Militia, which had assembled as a result of the alarm spread by Nathaniel Baker and Captain William Smith, arrived at Concord. The Acton Minute Men, either accompanied or soon followed by the nine men from Groton, came from the opposite direction. The Bedford Militia also got there in time to face the British.

A rumor of fatalities at Lexington, brought by the men from Lincoln, was supported by Reuben Brown of Concord, who had viewed the engagement at Lexington Green and galloped home to report.

6:30 A.M.

An array of about 150 men from the companies gathered at Concord marched down the road toward Lexington. After a mile or mile and a half, they saw the British coming. As the Minute Men readily observed the Regulars had a force three or more times their number, they prudently turned around and marched back into town ahead of the Redcoats and to the "grand musick" of fife and drum.

(The march of the Minute Men carried them as far as Meriam's Corner or slightly beyond, in an easterly direction from the center of Concord.)

7:00 A.M.

The British, with the light infantry in the van and the grenadiers bringing up the rear, approached the center of Concord. Observing that some of the Minute Men had taken up a position on a ridge to the right overlooking the road and the town, Lieutenant Colonel Smith, the British commander, ordered the light infantry out as flankers to clear the ridge, while the grenadiers kept to the road.

As the light infantry "ascended the height in one line," the Minute Men retired "without firing" onto a second ridge, now known as Ripley Hill, half a mile north of the center and nearly opposite the North Bridge that crossed the Concord River. A liberty pole with "a flag flying" stood near the west end of the first ridge. After cutting down the pole, the light infantry came off the ridge and halted in the center of town.

(The first ridge begins just west of Meriam's Corner and runs on the north side of Lexington Road into the center of town. From the latter, the second ridge runs northward on the east side of Monument Street and ends in a main elevation at Ripley Hill, not far from the tree-lined avenue leading into the North Bridge.)

Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn climbed to a cemetery near the site of the liberty pole and through telescopes stared at the surrounding countryside from among the gravestones. As Smith later reported to General Gage, he very likely saw at this time "vast numbers assembling in many parts." During the few minutes the chief officers of the expedition were thus occupied, 13 of their companies stood on parade in the road, while some of the grenadiers began to search the buildings around the square.

(This scene is depicted in one of a set of notable prints made a few weeks later by Amos Doolittle, an engraver from Connecticut, who joined the army besieging the British in Boston. It is entitled "Plate II A View of the Town of Concord." With the other Doolittle prints, it is part of a pictorial appendix to this report. The old cemetery is readily seen today, on a hill to the right, as the center of town is reached from Lexington.)

7:30 A.M.

Descending from the burying ground, Lieutenant Colonel Smith ordered six companies of light infantry, and then a seventh, to proceed to the North Bridge. There they divided into two parties. Three companies under Captain Walter Laurie of the 43rd Regiment remained to guard the bridge, while four in command of Captain Lawrence Parsons of the 10th Regiment marched on to Colonel Barrett's farm to look for the military stores concealed there. They were guided by Ensign De Berniere, who knew the location of their objective from his scouting trip made a month before. At the same time, Smith dispatched Captain Munday Pole with a company of light infantry a mile in the opposite direction to hold the South Bridge and destroy any military stores that might be found nearby.

(See North Bridge and South Bridge, Appendix C.)

Colonel James Barrett, in general command of the Militia, was now back from the work of putting out of sight the supplies of

ammunition and weapons at his farm. He ordered all the men on the second ridge or Ripley Hill, east of the Concord River, to cross the bridge to a muster field on the brow of Punkatasset Hill, a third elevation that is higher by some 200 feet beyond the west bank. There the Americans were to await reinforcements and see what the British would attempt to do.

(The North Bridge area between Ripley Hill and Punkatasset Hill requires measures to assure its permanent preservation and to forestall any prospect of future deterioration. Such measures are recommended by the Commission. The site of the muster field is indicated on a boulder in a wall on the west side of a road that goes over the brow of Punkatasset Hill. The boulder and its incised inscription, however, are not in a position to be readily seen.)

8:00 A.M.

The withdrawal of the Minute Men to Punkatasset Hill was completed just before the seven British companies under Captains Laurie and Parsons got to the North Bridge. When Colonel Barrett saw the companies of Captain Parsons cross the bridge and take a road to the left over a causeway that led to his farm, two miles further on, he galloped home ahead of them to give warning and last orders. On the way, about a quarter of a mile beyond the bridge, the marching column of light infantry passed two picturesque early Colonial dwellings, the Hunt-Hosmer House and the Governor John Winthrop House. The first of these survives today, with the old barn that belonged to the farmstead.

Meanwhile, two of Captain Laurie's companies, the 10th Lincolnshires and the King's Own 4th Royal North Lancashires, were sent across the bridge to the first rise of ground beyond. The 43rd Oxfordshires, assigned to watch the bridge itself, remained on the east bank within easy access of the stream. Troops from this company in turn surrounded the well in front of the Elisha Jones House, not far from the bridge, and drank its cool water. Little did they realize that stores of 55 barrels of beef and 1700 pounds of salt fish were concealed there in a cellar and shed.

(For further discussion of the Hunt-Hosmer House and the Elisha Jones House, also known as the Bullet Hole House, see Appendix C. The Governor John Winthrop House, which was torn down in 1859, is also covered as a separate item in the same appendix.)

While these activities were going on at the North Bridge and beyond, the superior officers in the British force strolled about the center of town, directing the grenadiers in their task of seeking out hidden stores and refreshing themselves in the public houses. At Wright's Tavern, Major Pitcairn, in a bad humor from bodily encountering an aged citizen of the town, is supposed to have stated as he "called for a glass of brandy and stirred it with his bloody finger" that "He hoped he should stir the yankee blood so before night."

The search of the grenadiers in the town did not prove to be very successful though stores, public buildings and private dwellings were all entered. Some hundred barrels of flour were found. A few were broken open and their contents mixed with the dust in the road, while others were rolled into the mill pond, near the central square, where much of it swelled and floated, and was finally salvaged. About 500 pounds of musket balls were also thrown into the mill pond, but many of them were dredged up afterwards. The grenadiers also set fire to the Town House and Reuben Brown's harness shop, but were prevailed upon by the inhabitants to put out the flames.

(The mill pond, which formerly occupied a sizeable area in the center of town, was subsequently filled and now comprises a good part of the business district.)

9:00 A.M.

Earl Percy finally got his delayed orders to go out from Boston with the First Brigade as a relief party. General Gage had issued the order at 4:00 A.M., but two mistakes in relaying it cost a very late start for the force consisting of 1000 men and two light fieldpieces.

The Minute Men and Militia on Punkatasset Hill, now made up of a force of over 400, including some individual volunteers, began to move down to a lower elevation nearer the North Bridge. From there, they saw the clouds of smoke rising from fires in the town. They did not know the exact cause, but had reason to suspect the worst. Colonel Barrett, back again from his farm, consulted with his officers and Joseph Hosmer, the Concord Adjutant, raised the question: "Will you let them burn the town down?" The decision was made "to march into the middle of town for its defence or die in the attempt."

Colonel Barrett gave the order to march, but not to fire until fired upon. Lieutenant Colonel John Robinson of Westford and Major John Buttrick of Concord led the procession, followed by Captain Isaac Davis' Acton company of Minute Men, the three Concord companies, the Militia of Acton, Bedford and Lincoln, and a column of the unattached volunteers. A pair of fifers and drummers struck up the tune of "The White Cockade" and the "embattled farmers" were on their way to engage some of the finest troops in the King's army.

As soon as the Americans were in motion on Punkatasset Hill, Captain Laurie's two outer companies retreated before them and soon joined the third company at the bridge. Captain Laurie was able to perceive that the oncoming force outnumbered his and despatched a messenger to Lieutenant Colonel Smith for reinforcements from the town. Smith ordered out two or three companies of grenadiers, "but putting himself at their head"

and "being a very fat heavy Man" so slowed up the advance to the bridge as to make it impossible to arrive in time to be of any help.

9:30 A.M.

Captain Laurie moved most of his men to the east end of the North Bridge, leaving only a few to pull up the planks. Major Buttrick, coming on at the head of the American column, ordered the men at work to desist and accelerated the pace of the Militia. The men removing the planks stopped and hastily formed for action in the road at the east end of the bridge. Laurie had little time to arrange his men effectively, for, as one of his lieutenants later wrote, "the Rebels got so near him his people were obliged to form the best way They cou'd...the three companies got one behind the other so that only the front one cou'd fire."

> (Captain Laurie's men without doubt attempted to form in a tactical design known as "street firing." They lined up in columns of fours. After the men in the first two or three ranks had fired from kneeling and standing positions, they broke to the right and left, and filed to the rear to reload, while their position in front was taken by ranks moving up in succession. Thus it was a theory that a narrow way or bridge could be kept under a steady fire.)

It was clearly Captain Laurie's intention to check the American advance at the North Bridge and his leading ranks of light infantry burst forth with the first shots - three of them, which fell harmlessly into the river. A bullet immediately after, however, passed under Lieutenant Colonel Robinson's arm and wounded Luther Blanchard, an Acton fifer, and Jonas Brown, a Concord Minute Man. The first full British volley followed at a range of 75 yards or less. "Their balls whisled well" and Isaac Davis, the Acton Captain, was killed as he was raising his gun and Abner Hosmer, one of his men, fell to the ground with a bullet through his head. Two others were wounded.

In obedience to Colonel Barrett's order, the Americans had not fired first. Major Buttrick now leaped into the air and fervently shouted, "Fire, fellow soldiers, for God's sake, fire!" The words rang down the ranks and a volley was fired by all who "could fire and not kill our own men." A few more shots came from the British, but their morale was broken by the number and force of the round balls that came smashing among them and they began to scatter.

As the advancing column of inspired Minute Men stepped onto the bridge, the Redcoats turned and fled, leaving two men on the ground. The ranks firing in front had difficulty extricating themselves, but those in back, who could not fire at all, withdrew in haste. At the end of the episode at the bridge, three

privates were to become fatalities, while four of the eight British officers present were wounded, besides a sergeant and four men - a trifling loss, to be sure, when measured by modern standards, but not a bad showing considering the ineffectual weapons of eighteenth century warfare. Concord Fight - "physically so little, spiritually so significant" - was over in two or three minutes, but, as a noted student of that one day in history has further remarked, "the way lay open for all that America since has done."

(The two British soldiers who were left on the ground are buried beside a stone wall at the left of the approach to the bridge. A slate tablet bears a suitable inscription of verses from James Russell Lowell.

Some conception of the inefficiency and lack of precision in the tools of war then employed is to be derived from a realistic look at the smoothbore flintlock musket, the standard weapon of the time that was popularly known in the British army as the Brown Bess. Weighing about 10 pounds and carrying a 21-inch bayonet, the Brown Bess was about four and a half feet long and used a charge of a round ball weighing over an ounce and loose powder to explode it. The ball struck with a powerful impact, but was very inaccurate and had a range of 125 yards or less. Loading and firing involved a series of motions and an interval of seconds between the pulling of the trigger and explosion of the charge. Two or three shots in a minute were regarded as a satisfactory rate of fire.

The most up-to-date form of ammunition was the packaged paper cartridge, containing a charge of a ball and powder and carried in small quantities in cartridge-boxes. On being taken from the boxes, the cartridges were torn open by the soldiers, usually with the teeth, and their contents placed where they belonged in the gun's mechanism. Most of the Minute Men and Militia had neither paper cartridges nor cartridge-boxes, but carried the balls and powder separately in pouches or bags and powder horns. This further distribution of ammunition made loading even more awkward and slow.

Amos Baker, of Lincoln, who was in the fight at the North Bridge, contended in an affidavit sworn to many years later that the British with their cartridge-boxes "could load and fire three times to our once." Baker also revealed that the companies of Minute Men with bayonets were placed in front on the advance to the bridge as "it was not certain whether the British would fire, or whether they would charge bayonets without firing.")

Though the British were able to carry away one of their dead, their flight from the bridge was so complete that their wounded had to hobble away as best they could. As they passed the Elisha Jones House, Jones pointed his musket out of a second story window, but his wife knocked it from his hands before he could fire. Determined, however, to witness the spectacle before his eyes, Jones went downstairs and stood in the doorway of his shed. A retreating Redcoat, no doubt welcoming the chance to shoot an insolent Rebel, took hasty aim as he hurried by and fired. The shot pierced the wall of the shed about a yard from Jones' head. The hole thus made is preserved today under glass and gives to the place the popular name of the Bullet Hole House.

The fleeing Redcoats met the corpulent Lieutenant Colonel Smith coming to their aid with his grenadiers about a quarter of a mile from the bridge. They were pursued by the Americans for only a short distance. Sensing, perhaps, that the British might return to face them with their reinforcements, about 200 of the Americans proceeded up the ridge of Ripley Hill close to the Elisha Jones House, a position they had taken up earlier in the day before moving over to the brow of Punkatasset Hill. There, taking cover behind a stone wall, they awaited an assault that never came.

With his forces still divided in three or more places, Smith was nervous and undecided what to do. According to the Reverend William Emerson, who was watching from the Old Manse nearby: "For half an hour, the enemy, by their marches and counter-marches, discovered great fickleness and inconstancy of mind; sometimes advancing sometimes returning to their former posts" before definitely withdrawing into the village.

While the British were engaged in these evolutions, about half the American force of 400 recrossed the bridge to the west bank. There, the bodies of Davis and Hosmer, the Acton Minute Men, were picked up and taken to the home of Major Buttrick, a handsome clapboarded dwelling that still stands on the slope of Punkatasset Hill but no longer in view of the picturesque riverside setting.

> (See Buttrick House, Appendix C. A monument with a suitably inscribed tablet commemorates Major John Buttrick beside the road nearly opposite the house.)

When Captain Munday Pole and his company of light infantry, who had seized the South Bridge at 8:00 A.M., heard the guns at the North Bridge, they at once started back to the center of town to rejoin the main body. They removed the planks from the bridge to protect their retreat. Some of Pole's troops were on Lee's Hill, an elevation about 100 feet high across the South Bridge, when the reports of musketry at the other end of the town echoed in the sky.

> (Lee's Hill, now called Nashawtuc Hill, was the home of Joseph Lee, a Tory and the town's physician.)

During their stay of an hour and a half at the South Bridge, Captain Pole's company entered and searched at least three houses and got food for which they were careful to pay the womenfolk. They came upon three 24-pound iron cannon, which they knocked from their trunnions, and destroyed a small quantity of flour. Some gun carriages were also found and set on fire, together with a number of barrels containing wooden trenchers and spoons. The smoke that rose from the burning of these supplies may have been seen by the Minute Men gathering on Punkatasset Hill and prompted their attack at the North Bridge, perhaps, as much as the fires started by the grenadiers in the town.

While the action at the North Bridge was taking place, the four companies of light infantry under Captain Parsons, returning from Colonel Barrett's farm, had got to a crossroads still more than a mile away. "Three or four of the officers were sitting by the roadside," where "some drink was carried out to them" from a near-by tavern kept by the Widow Brown. Charles Handley, a lad of 13 then living at the tavern, claimed in a later deposition that he "heard the guns at the bridge, but the British did not appear to hear them." According to Handley: "They marched on very soon, but did not appear in haste."

> (Mrs. Brown's tavern was at the southeast corner of the crossroads formed by the present Lowell Street and Barrett's Mill Road. The building, known today as the Abishai Brown or Cameron House, has been moved across Lowell Road and stands on the south side of Barrett's Mill Road not far from the southwest corner of the crossroads.)

At the Barrett Farm, the farthest reach of the British march, the troops had located a few gun carriages and burned them in front of the house. They had hoped, moreover, to find Colonel Barrett and arrest him. Instead, they seized the Colonel's son, Stephen. The latter had been about a mile from the house to warn Minute Men of the danger there and to take another route into town when he decided to return home and ran into the British. He was released as soon as his mother pleaded he was her son and not the master of the house. The soldiers were tired and hungry after their march of 20 miles and Mrs. Barrett was requested to feed them. This she did, but refused to accept pay by reaffirming the scriptural precept: "We are commanded to feed our enemies." When some of them, however, insisted and tossed money into her lap, she exclaimed: "This is the price of blood!"

10:00 A.M.

The main body of the British began to reassemble in the center of Concord as Lieutenant Colonel Smith got back with companies of the grenadiers and light infantry from the North Bridge and Captain Pole's company came in from the South Bridge. The men, who had been on the move since the night before, were exhausted and needed rest. The wounded required attention and provision

had to be made to carry them back to Boston. Chaises and horses were confiscated from stables, and bedding from nearby houses for the comfort of those who would have to be transported. Last but not least, the return of the companies under Captain Parsons, who had been virtually abandoned beyond the North Bridge, was awaited with real concern.

> (One of the chaises seized belonged to Reuben Brown, whose harness shop had been set on fire by the grenadiers. It was recaptured later in the day as the Regulars were exposed to severe attack in their retreat through Menotomy. A second chaise was taken from John Beaton, who lived next door to Reuben Brown.)

11:00 A.M.

The companies of Captain Parsons recrossed the North Bridge without interference from the Americans and finally rejoined the main body of troops in the central square. They brought back the first story of atrocity in the Revolution.

They had observed the bodies of two of their slain comrades lying beside the road near the east end of the bridge. One of them had been killed instantly, but the other, though wounded in the brief engagement, had not immediately expired. About a half hour later, a boy, still short of full growth to manhood and with hatchet in hand, had crossed the bridge to join the force of Americans on the ridge to the east. As he went by, the wounded soldier was sitting up and trying to raise himself to his knees. Whereupon the boy, doubtless under the spell of the exciting action that had just taken place and possibly fearing the soldier meant to do him harm, decided to finish the unfortunate victim by sinking the sharp blade of his weapon into his skull.

The returning troops of Captain Parsons, seeing the corpse thus mangled and bloody, originated accounts of exaggerated barbarism and cruelty. It soon became popular in England to believe that the Rebels, in Indian fashion, scalped and cut off the ears of their adversaries.

11:30 A.M.

The relief party under Earl Percy, which had started out over Boston Neck more than two hours before and proceeded more than eight miles through Roxbury and Brookline, finally arrived at the bridge across the Charles River into Cambridge. The planks had been removed from the bridge by order of the Cambridge Selectmen and piled on the Cambridge side. The Great Bridge, as the structure was called, was the only link between Boston and Cambridge and the towns of Middlesex County that lay beyond. It was essential for Percy to get across the river if he was to come to Smith's aid before it was too late. Percy had anticipated the bridge would be tampered with and brought along carpenters and materials to repair any damage. Fortunately for him, the hastily executed job of destruction had not been very

thorough. Some of his men crossed on the stringers and put enough planks back in place so the troops and fieldpieces were able to push on without much delay. The wagons of the supply train, however, were held up longer. By the time repairs were sufficient to allow them to cross the bridge in safety, they had been left far behind. Alert onlookers, seeing the wagon train thus widely separated from Percy's main body and protected by a sergeant's guard of only 12 men, promptly dispatched a messenger to Menotomy with advice to capture the delayed men and supplies further along the route.

(The Great Bridge spanned the Charles River approximately where the Larz Anderson Bridge now links the Harvard Business School and Harvard Stadium in Brighton with Harvard Square in Cambridge via Boylston Street.)

Noon or soon after

The British expeditionary force, at last rested and organized as well as possible for the return to Boston, pulled out of Concord, with flankers ordered up along the ridge on the north of the road to Meriam's Corner.

12:30 P.M.

As soon as the Americans who had been present at the fight at the North Bridge received warning that the British were heading back toward Lexington, they crossed the Great Meadows that lay to the north of the village and arrived at Meriam's Corner about as soon as the retreating Redcoats. They were well beyond the reach of the flanking light infantry on the ridge that runs easterly from the center of town and completely concealed from the main body withdrawing in the road. In the vicinity of Meriam's Corner, the numbers of the Militia were increased to as many as 1100 as more men from neighboring towns appeared. From the north came the Billerica, Chelmsford, Reading and Woburn companies. From the south, those of Framingham and Sudbury. Three companies from Westford, and at least one from Stow, had been too late at the North Bridge but were now on hand to take up the pursuit.

At Meriam's Corner, the old Bedford road runs in from the north to join the highway to Lexington. As the Reading companies were coming down this road and were nearly abreast the old Meriam House, a landmark at the left that yet survives, they saw the British flankers, about 100 in number, march down the east end of the ridge to the right and rejoin the main column in the highway. Taking care not to be out-flanked, the Reading men then advanced to the cover of the buildings and stone walls at the homestead and waited while the British slowly made their way over a little bridge that spanned Mill Brook, a few hundred feet farther along the highway.

(See Meriam House, Appendix C.)

Up to this moment, the remainder of the day might have passed without further incident. The few minutes of action at Lexington Green and Concord Bridge might even have been written off as part of a chronicle without any fulfillment or far-reaching end. Such, however, was not destined to be the case as the last of the grenadiers, reaching the east side of the narrow bridge, suddenly turned and fired a volley in the direction of the Reading companies gathered around the Meriam House. From this volley, there was to be no point of return. A war had opened that was not to end until Yorktown. During the course of the next few hours, a continuous battle was to rage around the retreating Redcoats on a battlefield only several hundred feet wide but sixteen miles long, all the way from Meriam's Corner to Charlestown.

> (Meriam's Corner, including the historic Meriam House, is the western terminus of a four mile stretch from Fiske Hill in Lexington recommended by the Commission for acquisition and permanent preservation as a national historical park.)

The volley fired by the exasperated grenadiers ushered in the real results of the eventful day. No target was within range and the volley was aimed too high to strike anyone. The Militia companies swarming in at the corner from both sides of the road replied with more deadly effect. A Concord Minute Man was, perhaps, a bit over-zealous in reporting that "a grait many Lay dead and the Road was bloddy." Yet at least two British privates were killed in the road beyond the stream, while several more were wounded, including Ensign Lister of the 10th Regiment.

From Meriam's Corner on, the warfare of the day became more and more of a guerrilla nature. It, indeed, was open season for shooting at the British. Any directing force and discipline beyond the company unit were lacking and, even there, they were slight as the Minute Men chose to fight as individuals either exposed in pursuit or behind shelter. At best, loosely tied groups of not more than a dozen or a score stayed together and did so with difficulty. By these tactics, the British force could not be destroyed, but it could at least be expelled from the countryside and the casualties of the Americans kept to a minimum.

In contrast, the British commander tried to maintain his force in a solid formation on the highway, except when he sent out detachments of light infantry in flanking movements to patrol and guard both sides of the road. These flanking parties were effective and more than once caught the local yeomen by surprise as they fired from roadside walls, boulders and trees. Of the total of 49 Americans killed during the day's fighting, it is probable that more than twice as many met their fate at the hands of the flankers as from the soldiers marching or retiring along the highway.

1:00 P.M.

As the British approached the top of Brooks or Hardy's Hill, half a mile east of the bridge at Meriam's Corner and about 60 feet higher, they were attacked by the Sudbury company of Captain Nathaniel Cudworth, which took cover by the roadside to their right. A constant fire was kept up by the Minute Men as the Redcoats sped down the easterly slope past the Brooks Tavern and over the line into Lincoln.

(The square house with hipped roof and brick ends that stands on the south side of the road at the Concord-Lincoln line is a post-Revolutionary structure. It, however, occupies the site of the Brooks Tavern in 1775. The Brooks family built several houses on Hardy's Hill and were active as tanners and curriers. The stream at the bottom of its eastern slope, therefore, has been appropriately known as Tanner's Brook, though it is part of the same Mill Brook at Meriam's Corner. The current designation of Elm Brook is of recent origin and has no historical value.)

Crossing Tanner's Brook at the foot of the hill, the British marched rapidly on, keeping flankers out parallel with the road. Across the bridge, the old road turns sharply to the left and rises to more elevated ground, some 20 feet higher than Hardy's Hill. On the left hand side of the road was a tall growth of trees and on the right one somewhat smaller. Many Minute Men, including the Bedford company of Captain Jonathan Willson, raced across a short cut to the north, over the Great Fields, in order to reach the advantageous position afforded by these woods and wait for the British to pass.

1:30 P.M.

When the Regulars reached this wooded portion of the highway, now cut off from the main route and known as Old Bedford and Virginia Road, the Americans under cover of the forest growth laid down a devastating fire that killed eight men outright and wounded many more. Fittingly, this curving section of the road was soon to be named "The Bloody Angle." The losses, to be sure, were not all one-sided. In the heat of the action on the road, the Minute Men forgot all about the British flankers. Captain Willson and two others were shot or fatally jabbed from the rear, and a fourth injured and disabled for life.

(The area known as "The Bloody Angle" until two decades ago remained almost unchanged, with trees, stone walls and boulders in their natural setting. A modern house, however, was built in the woods soon after and now the section has been developed residentially. Its historical values, however, can be recovered in time. Roadsides wide enough to include all of the bordering stone walls should first be saved from further change, and the area properly recognized by suitable markers.)

The old road bends again eastward beyond the woods at the Bloody Angle and on the north side, half a mile farther on, is faced by three old houses, only a few hundred feet apart, which were built long before the British marched by. The first or most westerly was a tavern kept by Ephraim Hartwell and also the home of Sergeant John Hartwell of the Lincoln Minute Men; the second, the Sergeant Samuel Hartwell House; and the third, the Captain William Smith House. The last two have already been mentioned in this narrative.

> (See also Appendix C. All three of the houses should be saved and safeguarded. The morning after the battle, Ephraim Hartwell, the innkeeper, and another elderly man drove along the road to the Bloody Angle with a yoke of oxen and a cart to pick up the bodies of the King's soldiers. Five of the eight dead were found and hauled away to the ancient burying ground at Lincoln Center. Their common grave in the Lincoln Cemetery is marked today by a memorial stone erected by the Town in 1884. Two more of the British who were killed at the Bloody Angle are supposed to have been buried near the spot where they fell - northwest of the road before it bears easterly toward Lexington.)

As the broken ranks of the British staggered on, a grenadier was shot and fell before a pair of bars on the south side of the road midway between the two Hartwell houses. At the home of Sergeant Samuel Hartwell, the panic-stricken Redcoats, expecting to be the targets of hidden foemen, fired wildly into the upper story. One soldier in passing thrust his broken musket through a window. Sergeant Hartwell later found the castoff weapon and, with typical Yankee ingenuity and thrift, mended and used it many years for hunting.

A little farther on, another grenadier was mortally wounded near the Captain Smith House and left by the roadside to die. Members of the family carried him into the house, where his wound was dressed and he lingered on for three or four days. He was suffering such agony before the end that he begged his hosts to dispatch him. While dying, he told a servant she would find a gold sovereign sewed in the lining of his coat. She could not find it, but it was afterwards located by Mrs. Smith. The soldier was buried a short distance up the highway near Folly Pond.

> (The remains of the grenadier were uncovered about 60 years ago as road builders were widening and grading the highway. They were re-interred over a stone wall in a field south of the road just west of Folly Pond. The field and Folly Pond are within the boundaries of the proposed park.)

The shattering fire faced by the British at the Bloody Angle had turned their retreat into a rout. As they got beyond the Captain Smith House, however, and by another half mile reached the opening into the pasture where Paul Revere had been captured the night

before, Lieutenant Colonel Smith had his flankers out again and was hopeful that he might meet the relief party of the First Brigade under Earl Percy before any further disaster should overtake his bedraggled force.

Just east of the pasture on the north side of the highway where Revere had been stopped lay two fields enclosed by stone walls. They were part of the homestead of Josiah Nelson, who, after taking a sword-slash on his head from a British officer at an early hour, had spread the alarm to Bedford. The first of the two fields was being improved as a meadow through drainage and was cut up by shallow trenches and coarse mounds of soil and grass. The second, a rough pasture, was strewn with large and picturesque boulders - just the thing to provide shelter for the pursuing farmers.

A venturous Lincoln Minute Man, William Thorning, had sunk into one of the holes in the first field and had the Redcoats in the road under incessant fire when their bullets began to bounce upon the ground around him. Turning and starting to run for the woods behind him, Thorning was caught in a cross fire as a flanking party which had been marching about 100 feet at his rear also made him a target. He narrowly missed being hit, but finally made good his escape by flattening himself in another trench and waiting for the party to pass on.

As soon as the flankers were gone, Thorning ran into the second field or pasture nearer the Nelson House and took up a position behind a huge boulder, about 50 feet from the road, where the main body of the British were still hurrying along. He resumed his fire with fatal effect. Two soldiers fell and were buried on a knoll in an orchard across the road. The rock over which Thorning levelled his musket at the fleeing Redcoats goes today by the appropriate name of "The Minute Man Boulder" and the knoll across the way is "The Soldiers' Graves."

(The ground, including the Minute Man Boulder, where William Thorning engaged in his individual fight with the British, is embraced in the tract of eight acres acquired for the Air Force in March, 1957, and to be set up as a national historic site. Both the tract of eight acres and the Soldiers' Graves fall inside the boundaries of the proposed park.)

Less than a quarter of a mile beyond the farmhouse of Josiah Nelson, adjacent to the Lincoln-Lexington boundary, stood the home of Samuel Hastings, a member of Captain Parker's company that had lined up on the Green at sunrise to face Major Pitcairn's light infantry. It was probably along the roadside walls between the Nelson and Hastings homesteads that some of Parker's men now went into action again, with the help of a Cambridge company under Captain Samuel Thatcher.

That Minute Men were posted around the Hastings dwelling is certain, for a British soldier who strayed from the column to plunder the house was severely wounded by an American bullet as he emerged and stood on the doorstep. He was found and carried into the house when the family returned later in the day, but his wound was fatal and he did not respond to their ministrations. After his death, some of the family's silver spoons were found in his pocket. He was laid to rest in the field west of the house.

(The Hastings House like the Nelson House no longer remains. The dwelling now on its approximate site is a structure built within the last century.)

As soon as the news was received that General Percy's wagon train of supplies would be along without a sufficient escort, the "old men of Menotomy" assembled at the Cooper Tavern in the center of the village to make plans for seizing it. They were all old men, exempts from the alarm list, for the young men in the Militia had already been called out. David Lamson, a half Indian, who had served in the old war against the French, was chosen leader and, accompanied by the Reverend Phillips Payson of Chelsea, the little band of about 12 men took their position behind a bank wall of earth and stone nearly opposite the meetinghouse of the First Parish.

When the wagon train came abreast of Lamson and his aged companions, Lamson called on the sergeant in charge to surrender. His request was not heeded and the drivers whipped up their horses to get away. The old men, who had taken aim, then fired, killing several of the horses and two of the soldiers, while some of the others were wounded. One of the musket balls passed through the front door of the meetinghouse.

The drivers and guards who were not wounded or killed leaped in panic from the wagons and ran to the shore of Spy Pond, a half mile to the southward, where they threw their guns into the water. Continuing their flight, they came upon an old woman, named Mother Batherick, who was digging dandelions. Begging for protection, they insisted on surrendering to her. She took them to the home of Captain Ephraim Frost, where she delivered them as prisoners, saying, "If you ever live to get back, you tell King George that an old woman took six of his grenadiers prisoners." When the story reached England, the opposition papers picked it up and pointedly asked the question, "If one old Yankee woman can take six grenadiers, how many soldiers will it require to conquer America?"

The wagons that were abandoned at Menotomy in the above manner provided the Americans with the first provisions and stores to be taken as the result of a forcible attack in the Revolution. The wagons and the living and dead horses were quickly gotten off the road and the marks of bloodshed erased. The townsmen

knew the Redcoats would be returning to Boston later in the day and they did not want to expose themselves to the acts of vengeance that such a sight might inspire.

(The site of the Cooper Tavern, which stood at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and the Medford road, the present High Street, is marked by a stone tablet. The site of the attack on the British wagon train is also identified by a similar tablet in front of the First Parish Church, Unitarian, at the south-west corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street in the present Arlington.)

2:00 P.M.

The British, now back on Lexington soil where the contest had begun, were once again to encounter Captain Parker's little band of Minute Men under less favorable circumstances. Just over the line from Lincoln, the land rises sharply at a bend in the old road and an outcrop of ledges on the north side forms a hillock, perhaps 50 feet high, that commands the road in both directions for half a mile. There many of Captain Parker's men who had not already gone on into Lincoln gathered in the early afternoon and waited for vengeance.

As the sorely pressed Regulars came into sight and finally drew opposite their advantageous position, the Lexington men poured down a resounding volley. The British returned their fire in desperation, but without aim or effect. A British sword and rust-eaten scabbard dug up under a boulder in a garden near the road about 1895 indicates that an officer may have been one of the casualties in this exchange of shots. A round ball, partially flattened by striking a ledge, was also found by the owner of the property.

(The hillock and roadsides where the above action took place are within the continuous area proposed for a national historical park. They border the east side of the modern highway that cuts across the old road and leads into the Air Force's Hanscom Field in Bedford.)

A quarter of a mile farther along the road, on the opposite side, the famished British troops came to the Bull Tavern, also later known as the Viles Tavern. Making a swift entry and departure, they ransacked the bar for liquor and devoured what food they could find. Any thought of paying for what they took was now far from their minds.

(The site and cellar-hole of the Bull Tavern are still visible though partly covered by trees. As the Viles Tavern, it was run from 1820 to 1850 by Joel Viles, son of Corporal Joel Viles of the Lexington Minute Men.

Archeological exploration of the foundations might yield some interesting findings. The site was taken by the State in connection with building the modern highway out to Hanscom Field, and is now in a plot surrounded by roads on all sides. The site itself, however, has not been disturbed.)

The British next approached as distinct a section topographically as any that now remains over the entire stretch of their day's march. A rocky bluff, about 25 feet high, formed by ledges of a brownish-yellow hue protrudes from the north just beyond the site of the Bull Tavern. Around this bluff, the old road winds in a northeasterly direction before ascending the western slope of Fiske Hill, an elevation some 60 feet higher than the bluff and a third of a mile farther to the east.

In the Bluff-Fiske Hill Area, some of the most colorful and furious but least known and publicized action in the course of the British retreat took place. As the broken ranks of the main body of troops got around the bluff and started up the west side of Fiske Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Smith decided to make a desperate effort to rally his men. A rear guard was thrown up on the bluff, while the troops were halted in the road beyond and steps taken to restore some semblence of order.

That this attempt failed is made clear in accounts left by two young British subalterns. Lieutenant John Barker observed at about this point in the day's fighting that the number of the enemy was "increasing from all parts, while ours was reducing from deaths, wounds, and fatigue, and we were totally surrounded with such an incessant fire as it's impossible to conceive, our ammunition was likewise near expended."

Ensign De Berniere reported a similar and even more humiliating situation: "When we arrived within a mile of Lexington, our ammunition began to fail, and the light companies were so fatigued with flanking they were scarce able to act, and a great number of wounded scarce able to get forward, made a great confusion; Col. Smith (our commanding officer) had received a wound through his leg, a number of officers were also wounded, so that we began to run rather than retreat in order ... we attempted to stop the men and form them two deep, but to no purpose, the confusion increased rather than lessened." In such a condition, the British were to go on the remaining mile from Fiske Hill to the village of Lexington.

Major Pitcairn as well as the wounded Lieutenant Colonel Smith was a conspicuous target for the Minute Men and Militia, whom Lieutenant Barker found "so concealed there was hardly any seeing them." With his superior in command, the Major tried valiantly to bring the men into line. A Minute Man who was witness to the Major's endeavors recorded afterwards: "The enemy were then rising and passing over Fiske's hill. An officer, mounted on an elegant horse, and with a drawn sword in his hand,

was riding backwards and forwards, commanding and urging on the British troops. A number of Americans behind a pile of rails, raised their guns and fired with deadly effect. The officer fell, and the horse took fright, leaped the wall and ran directly towards those who had killed his rider."

(Contrary to the above account, Pitcairn was neither killed nor wounded, but lived to receive a fatal wound at Bunker Hill. He was simply thrown by his spirited steed amid the clamor and excitement, and was obliged to fight the rest of the day on foot. His horse, when caught by a handful of Minute Men, was identified by the pistols that were in their holsters on the saddle. They were carried through the war by General Israel Putnam and are now in the possession of the Lexington Historical Society.)

While the main body of Smith's men were exposed to this unexpected attack on their flank at Fiske Hill, the rear guard posted on the bluff was driven in by the pursuing Militia. Any hope of successfully reorganizing the British column had to be abandoned. The distraught men, to the consternation of their officers, broke and ran down the east side of the hill and, in greater disarray than before, hastened on toward Lexington.

(The Bluff-Fiske Hill Area, significant as almost a breaking point in the British rout, is the eastern terminus of the proposed park. Fiske Hill lies directly west of the circumferential highway, Route 128. Massachusetts Avenue from Lexington passes over Route 128 and continues over Fiske Hill to join Route 2A at the Bluff.)

2:30 P.M.

Stragglers from the British column entered and pillaged the farmhouse of Benjamin Fiske near the bottom of Fiske Hill. They also lingered to drink from a well in the dooryard. There a personal encounter took place between one of the plundering Redcoats and James Hayward of Acton, exempt from military service because of a defective foot but no less engaged as a private citizen in the pursuit. Recognizing Hayward as an enemy, the British soldier raised his musket and exclaimed, "You are a dead man!" Hayward answered, "And so are you!" Both fired at the same moment and both fell; the soldier was killed and Hayward mortally wounded by the soldier's bullet piercing his powder horn and driving splinters into his side.

(The Hayward Well, marked by a stone tablet, and nearly half an acre of shaded ground around it are now owned by the Lexington Historical Society. It is probable that this property will be available by donation for inclusion in the proposed park as a component of the Bluff-Fiske Hill Area. The graves

of three British soldiers are situated across the highway from the Hayward Well and at present are identified by a rough boulder with a crudely daubed inscription, a device hardly designed to foster a feeling of international good will. The location of the grave of the soldier killed by Hayward is not known, nor is that of another soldier who was killed near the top of Fiske Hill and buried beside the road. Two soldiers who met their fate at the Bluff are buried nearby, on the opposite side of the road. No trace of their graves is now visible. The Fiske House, altered and with later additions, was demolished several years ago, together with adjacent farm buildings, by the owner. His farm had been dismembered as a result of putting through the circumferential highway, Route 128.)

The British carried some of their wounded along, but as their flight grew more perilous it became necessary to drop them by the roadside. Three severely wounded men were thus left behind as the disorganized column reached the foot of Fiske Hill and began to climb the western slope of the more elevated Concord Hill, the last eminence before reaching Lexington Green. The three soldiers were picked up by the Americans, who followed along soon after, and taken into the home of Thaddeus Reed, a member of Captain Parker's company. There they all died and their bodies were taken back to Fiske Hill for burial not far from the Hayward Well.

(The scene of this incident was mostly on property that has been transformed by construction of the circumferential highway, Route 128. The roadsides between Route 128 and Lexington Green are now fully built up as the result of residential development in the past twenty years. In consequence, any landmarks of 1775 have been eliminated beyond recognition. The graves of the three soldiers who died in the home of Thaddeus Reed were mentioned in the preceding parenthetical remarks. They are in the Bluff-Fiske Hill Area of the proposed park.)

The Americans kept a harassing fire on the flying foe as he sped over Concord Hill and on past Lexington Green. No stop was now made to disperse any Rebels! No Minute Men were now lined up to oppose the retreat. It was too easy to add to the enemy's discomfiture on the flanks and at his rear. The situation had radically changed since the initial clash of arms at sunrise. As the British ran on in confusion, more of their number were killed and wounded. Three more soldiers were abandoned near the Green and carried into the Buckman Tavern, where one of them died three days later. He was laid to rest in the Old Burying Ground not far from the corner of the Green, where the road leads off to Concord.

(The Old Burying Ground has graves bearing dates as early as 1690. A boulder beside the road directs the visitor to its location behind the First Parish Church and adjacent houses. A small stone tablet marks the soldier's grave.)

The beaten British force was now threatened with complete dissolution before the relief party under Brigadier General Earl Percy could come to its aid. One last effort to restore discipline, however, was made and succeeded in bringing the discomfited troops together until they could reach the protection of their reinforcements. Ensign De Berniere described how it was done. "At last, after we got through Lexington, the officers got to the front and presented their bayonets, and told the men that if they advanced they should die: Upon this they began to form under a very heavy fire."

Lieutenant Gould of the King's Own 4th Regiment, who had been wounded in the ankle at Concord Bridge, was captured at Menotomy by some of the old men who had waylaid the British supply wagons. He had gone on ahead of Lieutenant Colonel Smith's retreating column, and was riding in one of the chaises borrowed at Concord. About two miles back on the road, not far from the Lexington boundary, he had met General Percy and his relief party, and informed them of Smith's pressing need of assistance.

(Lieutenant Gould's captors took him on the present Massachusetts Avenue near Mill Street. The chaise he was in had been taken from the shop of Reuben Brown, the harness-maker of Concord.)

3:00 P.M. or shortly before

General Percy opened his ranks half a mile east of Lexington Green to admit Smith's men, "so much exhausted with fatigue, that they were obliged to lie down for rest on the ground, their tongues hanging out of their mouths, like those of dogs after a chase." About a half hour earlier, the rescue party, consisting of the King's Own 4th Regiment, the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the 47th Regiment, all without their flank companies who were already in the contest, and the 1st Battalion of Marines, had heard the sound of musketry as the troops retreating from Fiske Hill drew nearer. News of Smith's plight, moreover, had been given Percy by Lieutenant Gould of the 4th Regiment, whom he had met riding toward Menotomy shortly before.

The firing became "plainer and more frequent," and as Lieutenant Frederick Mackenzie of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers further remarks critically in his diary, "we were ordered to form the Line, which was immediately done by extending on each side of the road, but by reason of the Stonewalls and other obstructions, it was not formed in so regular a manner as it should have been."

(The relief party under Earl Percy advanced as far as the former Lexington High School on Massachusetts Avenue, where one of two 6-pound fieldpieces was wheeled into position and opened fire up the road to discourage any closer approach by the groups of Militia in pusuit. The other fieldpiece was placed on a rise of ground a quarter of a mile back on the opposite side of the present avenue not far from the Munroe Tavern, where Percy set up his headquarters. A tablet in the shape of a stone cannon occupies the approximate position of the first fieldpiece in front of the high school building, while a simple stone tablet beside the road identifies the site of the second. The Munroe Tavern, already mentioned, is discussed in Appendix C.)

Colonel Smith's men rested for a half hour or more inside the line thrown out by the rescue party. Meanwhile, General Percy, with the two fieldpieces he had brought along, opened the first cannonade of the Revolution. No Americans were killed or wounded, but the meetinghouse on Lexington Green was struck and damaged. Percy's men, moreover, took pains to destroy any structure that might be used as cover by scattered groups of the Rebels for sniping at the British flanks. Three houses and three outlying buildings were both looted and burned, and 200 rods of stone walls in the immediate vicinity hastily torn down. The total losses in Lexington homes were later computed at £1761,1s,15d.

While this destruction was taking place, the wounded were conveyed into the Munroe Tavern, where their wounds were dressed and such refreshment taken as could be found. John Raymond, an unarmed cripple, mixed drinks for the thirsty Redcoats at the bar. When he tried to escape by the rear door, he was shot and killed by two of the soldiers.

Despite the precautions taken by Percy to protect his position during the period of rest, marksmen among the Militia crept up in small numbers to woods and meadows on both sides of the road and, from behind trees and the second line of walls at more than point-blank distance, resumed a fire that had been momentarily interrupted by the British light artillery. About this time, three companies of Militia from Newton also entered the fight. The Minute Men in pusuit of the enemy had to give up the chase as soon as their ammunition gave out. Their numbers, however, were continually replenished along the way as other citizens in arms, like those now from Newton, arrived at the scene of action.

The renewal of the battle in Lexington was not without effect. Lieutenants Hawkshaw, Cox and Baker of the 5th Regiment, Lieutenant McCloud and Ensign Baldwin of the 47th, and Captain Souter and Lieutenant Potter of the Marines were all wounded and many privates also injured or killed. One of the wounded soldiers, a German, was left behind at the home of Samuel Sanderson, a member of Captain Parker's company of Minute Men. He was well treated and remained to make his home in Lexington for many years.

(The Sanderson House, built in 1689, still stands, the first dwelling south of the Munroe Tavern. Samuel Sanderson's cow was wantonly killed by the British. Across the avenue is the oldest home in Lexington, the Mason House, erected in 1680. It was ransacked by the retreating Redcoats and property taken to the value of £14,13s,4d. The rural setting around these historic structures in 1775 is now largely gone as this section of Lexington has grown residentially.)

3:30 P.M.

The retreat of the British in the direction of East Lexington and Menotomy was resumed as Percy placed Smith's tired men in front and his own fresh troops at the rear and on the flanks. For a while, the forces, thus combined, marched on in impressive array and comparative safety. The flankers prevented the Americans from using any close cover and at the same time they entered and pillaged houses by the roadside without restraint from their officers.

William Heath, one of five generals appointed by the Provincial Congress to take charge of the Militia, arrived at Lexington by detours from Menotomy and was soon joined by Dr. Joseph Warren. Both had attended a meeting of the Committee of Safety at Menotomy that morning after receiving news of the baptism of blood at Lexington Green. They now found the populace incensed by the bombardment of the meetinghouse, and the looting and burning of homes. Heath is alleged to have assisted in "forming a regiment, which had been broken by the shot from the British fieldpieces."

4:30 P.M.

The British troops trudged slowly on under the burden of goods they had stolen along the way. After advancing about two and a half miles and soon after leaving the Lexington line, they had to climb Peirce's Hill near the west end of Menotomy, now Arlington Heights, and half a mile farther on came down again to lower ground known as the "Foot of the Rocks." There once again they were exposed to a fierce fire as Militia from towns to the eastward and nearer the coast began to enter the fray.

(The name, Foot of the Rocks, is carved on a boulder on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue not far from the corner where Appleton Street drops in a steep grade from Arlington Heights. The character of this elevation, which doubtless was once very rocky, is now largely lost as the area has been built up residentially.)

General Heath, who had rushed over from Lexington and probably made what preparations he could to put up a stiff fight, appeared on the scene at this point. He recalled what he saw in his Memoirs: "On descending from the high grounds in Menotomy, on the plain, the fire was brisk. At this instant, a musket-ball came so near to the head of Dr. Warren, as to strike the pin out of the hair of his earlock. Soon after, the right flank of the British was exposed to the fire of a body of Militia, which had come from Roxbury, Brooklyn, Dorchester, &c. For a few minutes the fire was brisk on both sides."

Beginning at the "Foot of the Rocks," the fire power of the Americans was greatly increased as over 1700 men in no less than 35 companies began to swell the force of Militia that had the Regulars under attack. Companies from Watertown, Medford, Malden, Dedham, Needham, Lynn, Beverly, Danvers, Roxbury, Brookline and Menotomy itself now thronged the road and roadsides. The British were severely harassed in some of the bloodiest fighting of the day as they retreated over the long stretch of more than a mile and a half on Massachusetts Avenue from the "Rocks" to the center of the present Arlington.

Lieutenant Mackenzie of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, at the end of the withdrawing column, was in a position to observe the pursuing foe: "In the road indeed in our rear, they were most numerous and came on pretty close, frequently calling out 'King Hancock forever!'" Besides firing in the street or from cover, the Militia and unattached individuals engaged the Redcoats in hand to hand fighting as they moved out of line or approached and entered houses. In this manner, Dr. Eliphalet Downer, who had arrived with the Brookline and Roxbury companies, faced up to a British soldier and killed him in a celebrated duel. The bellicose physician, quickly discovering he was no match for the Regular in the fine points of bayonet play, deftly reversed his musket. Using the butt as a club, he then stunned his adversary with a swift blow before finishing him with eight inches of cold steel.

General Percy, riding his beautiful white horse, offered a conspicuous target. He escaped death or injury, but a button was shot from his uniform. The increasing number of Minute Men brought such pressure on his rear and flanks that Percy finally halted his column not far from the "Rocks" and turned his two fieldpieces upon them. The cannon shot hit no one, but temporarily, at least, scattered his pursuers. The destructive aspect of real war was now fully present as cannon balls blasted the road, smashed into stone walls and trees, and tore jagged holes through houses. Looting by the Regulars continued and they also tried to burn the buildings they had pillaged.

> (That all the houses the British set on fire along the route did not burn down was nowhere more uniquely explained than at the Robbins home on the summit of Peirce's Hill, where it is said the family had fled before the oncoming enemy, leaving a line of wet clothes hanging in the kitchen to dry. After ransacking the house and destroying a clock, the British

flank guard kindled a fire in the kitchen floor. The clothesline soon caught on fire and, as it burned off, the wet clothes fell to the floor, putting out the flames.)

At the Tufts Tavern, about half a mile along the road from the "Foot of the Rocks," a gang of soldiers wasted the plunder that could not be carried away, one thrusting his bayonet through a fine mirror, while others, in haste or malice, opened the taps of casks containing liquor and molasses and left them running. As they departed to rejoin their comrades, they set the building on fire, but a loyal slave, watching from a safe distance, returned in time to check the blaze.

(A part of the Tufts Tavern survived up until half a century ago, opposite Mt. Vernon Street on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington.)

5:00 P.M.

Deacon Joseph Adams and his family, a quarter of a mile beyond the Tufts Tavern, had an even livelier time with the Redcoats. The Deacon, outspoken in the patriotic zeal with which he had opposed the King's ministry, feared for his life and fled before some flankers who followed him as he ran and fired a volley of bullets, but did not strike him. He reached the barn of his pastor, the Reverend Samuel Cooke, where he hid in the hay. The soldiers came after him, probing the hay here and there with their bayonets, but failed to find him as they dared not to tarry long.

Meanwhile, other soldiers broke into Deacon Adams' house and three of them burst into the chamber, where his wife lay on the bed with her youngest child, 18 days old. One of the soldiers, opening the curtains of the bed, pointed his bayonet to her breast and seemed about to slay her. "For the Lord's sake, do not kill me!" she begged, but he angrily replied, "Damn you!" Another soldier interceded, saying, "We will not hurt the woman if she will go out of the house, but we will surely burn it." Throwing a blanket around herself and with her infant in her arms, Mrs. Adams, painfully weak, made her way out to the cornhouse, while the marauders proceeded with their search for booty.

Five older Adams children, hidden under the bed, watched the feet of the soldiers moving about the room as they emptied the contents of bureau drawers into sheets stripped from the beds. Joel Adams, nine years old, growing curious to see more of what was going on, lifted a corner of the valance for a better view and was detected by one of the soldiers. The boy came out of his hiding place and followed the soldiers around as they dumped the family valuables and household goods into their sacks. They even took out the works of an old clock and one of them was about to make off with the church communion service, of which

the Deacon had custody, when the horrified Joel indignantly cried out, "Don't you touch them 'ere things! Daddy 'll lick you, if you do." Despite the small boy's admonition, the silver service, including a valuable tankard given to the church in 1769, went back to Boston with the soldiers, where the tankard was pawned to a silversmith and recovered by Deacon Adams after the British evacuated the town.

The depredations on the Adams household came to an end as the British soldiers ignited a basketful of chips on the kitchen floor and left the house to burn. The alert children were able to extinguish the flames with a pot of home-brewed beer and water from a cask outside the door, but not until the floor and ceiling were badly damaged and pewter plates melted on a dresser. The story of Mrs. Adams and her child, with elaborations by orators to suit the purposes of propaganda at the time, was used as a choice specimen of British brutality. In some measure, at least, it offset the atrocity committed by the boy with the hatchet on the wounded soldier at Concord Bridge.

> (The ell of the Deacon Adams House still stood on the south side of Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington as late as 1912. It was a part of the third house west of Bartlett Avenue, but is not recognizable today. The incidents which befell the family and were so typical of the British retreat were substantiated by its major victim, Hannah Adams, the Deacon's wife, in a subsequent deposition taken by order of the Provincial Congress.)

Jason Russell, aged 58 and lame, who lived just beyond Deacon Adams, was one citizen of Menotomy who believed that "An Englishman's house is his castle." After taking his wife and children to a place of greater safety, he had returned to his dwelling and prepared for any forays the British flankers and freebooters might make by barricading his gate with bundles of shingles.

The land rises to a ridge that runs in a westerly direction south of the Russell House and along the base of this ridge, a flanking party advanced parallel to the main body of the British retreating over the road toward the village from the "Foot of the Rocks." A few Minute Men, mostly from Danvers, were posted in back of the Russell House and waiting for the British column to come up the road, when they were surprised by the flanking party in their rear and driven toward the house, where they were caught between the flankers and the main body. There followed the most famous fight at close quarters during the eventful day and the bloodiest encounter associated with any house in the Revolution.

A neighbor, Ammi Cutter, who had helped to capture Percy's wagon train several hours before, had pleaded in vain with Russell to withdraw to a position of greater security than his barricade of shingles. Cutter was climbing over a wall between two fields on his way home when the flanking party suddenly came into sight

and directed their fire upon him. He ran, but in crossing an old mill yard stumbled and fell between two logs. The flankers thought they had killed him because he fell as they fired, but he escaped uninjured.

The Minute Men, who ran into the flanking party near the foot of the ridge, were not so lucky. As they got to Russell's door-yard, Percy's column coming up the road saw them and fired, forcing them to take shelter in the house. The unfortunate Russell, with his disabled foot, was the last to reach the door and was struck by two bullets. As he lay in the doorway, the Redcoats rushing in stabbed him with no less than eleven bayonet thrusts.

In the house, the Minute Men who had no bayonets were at a great disadvantage and the Redcoats readily slew all they could reach. Some men from Beverly and others, eight in number, fled into the cellar and, pointing their muskets up the stairway, threatened instant death to any soldiers who should follow. One venturesome Redcoat took a chance and was shot on the stairs. Another was killed in the fight on the floor above.

After the British had gone on, the dead in and about the house were gathered in the room to the left of the front door. When Mrs. Russell came home that evening, she found her husband and eleven Minute Men lying side by side on the floor in a common pool of blood. They were the largest number of combatants, either American or British, to give up their lives in any one place and at any one time during the course of the day's conflict.

(The Jason Russell House, commendably saved by the Arlington Historical Society in 1923 under the impetus of suburban growth that had almost totally changed its historic surroundings, stands today not far from its original location near the corner of Jason Street and Massachusetts Avenue, where a stone tablet calls attention to the fight at the house. A more recent metal marker has been erected in front of the house, which possesses architectural features of genuine merit from the late seventeenth century as well as an illustrious history connected with the first day of fighting in the Revolution. For fuller treatment, see Appendix C. Jason Russell and the eleven Minute Men lie in one large grave in the Old Burying Ground behind the First Parish Church, Unitarian, at the southwest corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street in the center of Arlington. "Seven Young Men of Danvers," who were commemorated in a pamphlet with that title in 1835, were among those killed either inside or near the Jason Russell House. According to one version, they were slain in the house, while in another they are described as being in a "walled enclosure," strengthened by breastworks of bundles of shingles piled on top, when they met death at the hands of a British flanking party.)

5:30 P.M.

The section of the highway leading to the Cooper Tavern from the Jason Russell House was, indeed, the scene of some of the most frenzied and desperate action during the running fight over an almost continuous battlefield. Beginning with the well directed fire of the "old men of Menotomy," who had stopped General Percy's supply train coming from the opposite direction earlier in the afternoon, the slaughter at the Russell House now added perceptibly to the total of fatalities. No less than 20 Americans and as many or more British were finally slain in this stretch, which deservedly has been called "the bloodiest half mile of all the Battle Road."

A second Adams House lay virtually in the center of the village just west of the Cooper Tavern. As the main body of the Regulars and the following Militia passed by, it came in full range first of American and then British fire. It was both punctured by bullets and stained with blood as the dying and wounded were carried inside its doors. When Mrs. Adams returned later in the day, she stepped over the body of a dead British soldier as she entered by the back door. In the front room on a bed lay another soldier, with his mortal wounds pouring out blood on the white sanded floor.

The fury of the fire that filled the Adams House with bullets and blood had begun when the withdrawing Redcoats made themselves a standing target by halting for only a moment in the street between this dwelling and the First Parish Meetinghouse. They stopped long enough, however, to give one of Menotomy's venerable citizens a chance to start his own private little war.

> (The spot where the British troops stopped was where the railroad tracks now cross Massachusetts Avenue in the center of Arlington. The Adams House, older than the Deacon Adams House already mentioned, blocked the way on the northerly side of the street and was torn down when the railroad was put through. One man who was surprised in the house while it was exposed to the heaviest fire is said to have "saved his life by climbing up into the big chimney, and standing on the cross-pole from which the kettles were hung.")

The tale of Captain Samuel Whittemore, 78 years old, defies any distrust of septuagenarian stamina and will to survive. A Militia officer in his younger days, Whittemore had been awakened during the night by the tramp of Smith's troops passing through Menotomy on the way to Lexington. His wife made preparations to seek safety at one of their sons' houses, but when the time came for the pair to go, she found her husband "oiling his musket and pistols, and sharpening his sword" with the intention of "going up in town." This he did, arriving well before the British came up the long street from the "Foot of the Rocks."

He found cover to his liking behind a stone wall not far from the Adams House and the Cooper Tavern, but on a street leading off to the Mystic River and about 150 yards away from the line of the British retreat. This he regarded as an easy range for his old musket. When the Regulars finally came along and halted nearly opposite his position, he took aim and fired, killing one of them, and repeated with following shots.

The smoke from his gun soon attracted a British flanking party. Too lame to run, Captain Whittemore had no choice but to fight in desperation. Pulling one pistol, he killed one of five soldiers he saw suddenly approaching him along the wall, and, with the second, shot another who "was seen to clap his hand to his breast." As he was about to fire again, a ball from one of their muskets struck him in the head and knocked him to the ground. The remaining flankers then closed in, clubbing him with their muskets and stabbing him with their bayonets until they were certain he was dead.

The old warrior, however, still had some life left in him. When he was discovered after the departure of the British and borne into the Cooper Tavern, the surgeon, Dr. Tufts of Medford, declared it was useless to dress his many wounds, for a man so aged could not possibly hope to recover. But his wounds were dressed and the tenacious old hero lived 18 more years, dying in 1793 at the age of 96.

Those who had the opportunity to see Captain Whittemore in a condition close to death from his wounds said "He bled like an ox," and later attributed his new lease of life to the new blood that had to be formed. A woman in Boston the next day is reported to have heard some British soldiers assert, "We killed an old devil there in Menotomy, but we paid too dear for it, - lost three of our men, the last died this morning."

(The position taken by Samuel Whittemore for his exploits against the British was near the corner of the present Mystic and Chestnut Streets. It is marked by a stone tablet.)

The buildings along the village street of Menotomy had harbored so many Minute Men and made the route of the British retreat so hot and tantalizing, especially over the last mile, that it was inevitable the harried troops would sooner or later in their reckless fury make victims of some of the innocent as well as the guilty. This very thing occurred at the Cooper Tavern as a climax to the warm reception the soldiers had received in the little community.

Jason Winthrop, 45, and Jabez Wyman, 39, had already tarried too long over their mugs of ale and the landlord, Benjamin Cooper, and his wife, Rachel, were mixing flip at the bar when the Redcoats began shooting at the doors and windows and crowded into

the taproom. The drinking companions, both of military age but unarmed and apparently expecting not to be harmed, never had a chance. The landlord and his spouse, who escaped for their lives into the cellar, made the incident appear even more merciless and shocking than it probably was. In a later deposition for the Provincial Congress they described Winship and his brother-in-law as "two aged gentlemen ... most barbarously and inhumanely murdered ... being stabbed through in many places, their heads mauled, skulls broke, and their brains beat out on the floor and walls of the house."

(A part of the Cooper Tavern was subsequently moved and survived until about 1860, with many marks of bullets still to be seen in its walls.)

The battle had reached the height of its ferocity at Menotomy. More were killed there on both sides than in any other town. At least 40 of the British succumbed, more than half of their fatalities of 73 for the day, while 25 out of the 49 Americans who lost their lives fell in the town that was later to be called West Cambridge and finally Arlington. Homes were put to the torch as at Lexington, but the Regulars were more closely pursued by a greater number of Minute Men and others, who deprived them of sufficient time to destroy the village by a wholesale conflagration. Many fires were started, but soon extinguished by the Militia and townsmen hovering over the scene.

6:00 P.M.

The sun was now sinking in the western sky and "Lord Percy thought it best to continue the march." Only an hour remained before complete darkness and the force still had several miles to go before it could reach the comfort and protection of the warships in the Charles and reinforcements at Boston. The troops, therefore, advanced rapidly and without incident beyond the Cooper Tavern and in a little more than a mile and a quarter arrived at the Menotomy River, where they crossed into the north end of Cambridge.

(The Menotomy River is the present Alewife Brook, a name also used in Colonial times. Alewives were fished from the stream and used to fertilize the soil.)

Soon after the hurrying column had crossed the river, Lieutenant Solomon Bowman, a Minute Man, who lived back on the Menotomy side near the Black Horse Tavern, overtook a British straggler and fought him in a hand-to-hand engagement of unloaded muskets. The soldier lunged at Bowman with his bayonet fixed, but the Lieutenant fended off the thrust and with the butt of his gun knocked his opponent to the ground, taking him prisoner.

A mile beyond the Menotomy River, a small but resolute band of Americans waited for the British under the dubious shelter provided by a pile of empty casks in the yard of Jacob Watson, a blacksmith. Once again the flankers caught their victims by surprise as they got in their rear unobserved and charged with bayonets. Major Isaac Gardner, of the Brookline Militia and the highest ranking officer to be slain on either side during the day, fell in the encounter, and two volunteers of Cambridge, John Hicks and Moses Richardson, both 50 years or more of age.

Near the same spot, William Marcy, a dull-witted fellow, sitting on a fence and loquaciously enjoying the colorful spectacle of the passing Redcoats, was picked off by one of them, his harmless and well-meaning cheers being mistaken for hostile insults. The British loss in Cambridge was light, but one man being killed by the shooting at the barricade of casks.

(The site of the above action, marked by a tablet, is on the southerly side of Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge at the corner of the present Rindge Avenue. The John Hicks House, where one of the victims of this slaughter lived more than a mile away, is now owned and used by Harvard University as a library for Kirkland House. A gambrel-roofed structure of Georgian simplicity built in 1760, it is now situated at Boylston and South Streets in Cambridge. It formerly stood at the southeast corner of Dunster and Winthrop Streets, where it was marked by a stone tablet.)

6:30 P.M.

When General Percy led his troops out of Boston in the morning, it is claimed by one source that he intended to camp that night on Cambridge Common and, with reinforcements to be sent out later by General Gage, lay waste the buildings of Harvard College and others in the town as an example of the swift and terrible punishment King George was ready to mete out to subjects who were rebellious and took up arms to defy his authority.

Any thought of stopping in Cambridge now, however, was far from Percy's mind. In the course of the afternoon's fighting, he had seen what an aroused and hostile countryside could do to an invader. As a result, he was determined to get back to the main army in Boston as soon as possible by taking the shortest and safest route through Charlestown. He had regarded the Americans before as "cowards" and "timid creatures," but was now in a position where he had to reverse his opinion. In a report the next day he wrote, "many of them concealed themselves in houses & advanced within 10 yds. to fire at me and other officers, tho' they were morally certain of being put to death themselves in an instant ... nor will the insurrection here turn out so despicable as it is perhaps imagined at home. For my part, I never believed, I confess, that they wd have attacked the King's troops, or have had the perseverance I found in them yesterday."

General Heath of the Provincial Militia had expected Percy would return over the same route he had gone out in the morning, and had ordered the Great Bridge over the Charles to be dismantled and ambushed. He had even made hasty preparation to force Percy to take the road to the bridge if he did not choose to do so of his own accord. As a result, Percy's men found "near Cambr, just as we turned down toward Chastown" a small body of Militia ready to block their advance.

(Percy's column wheeled to the left onto Beech Street from Massachusetts Avenue, a quarter of a mile beyond the spot where the three Americans had been killed in the fight at the empty casks, and came into the modern Somerville at the corner of Beech and Elm Streets.)

The Militia were too inexperienced and too few in number to oppose Percy with anything like a frontal attack, but they exposed him to a hot fire from a grove not too far away and killed several of his men. As he had already done more than once on the retreat, Percy was compelled to unlimber his two fieldpieces and with cannon shot frighten and drive off his adversaries.

(This sharp encounter took place at the corner of Elm Street and Willow Avenue in Somerville, soon after the British had turned into Elm from Beech Street. A stone tablet near the corner marks the site of graves of the British soldiers who fell in the skirmish. The graves were dug in the front yard of the farmhouse of Timothy Tufts, which still stood in 1912 but is now gone. When the expeditionary force under Lieutenant Colonel Smith, going in the opposite direction, halted in front of the house in the early morning darkness, the Tufts were awakened by the barking of their dog. Mrs. Tufts and her husband looked out and saw some of the soldiers walking toward their well in the yard for a drink.)

The plan of General Heath to induce Percy to change his route and proceed by the college to the bridge across the Charles, where he would have been long delayed, thus failed. Almost a mile farther on, the Redcoats, now moving swiftly in the last moments of daylight, came to a small pond at the foot of the present Laurel Street and Somerville Avenue. Overheated by their exertions and frantic with thirst, many of the soldiers threw themselves into the water to refresh their perspiring bodies and parched throats.

(The pond, like almost all features of what was unspoiled countryside or a small village comprising the west end of Charlestown in 1775, disappeared many years ago. Under the impact of urban growth, this part of Charlestown was set off as Somerville in 1842 and has been largely transformed in the past century.)

Another mile brought the rapidly advancing Regulars to the foot of Prospect Hill, where the Americans had one last great opportunity to train their inefficient weapons on the hard and long pressed foe. There were casualties of dead and wounded in the British ranks as volleys of shot and smoke poured off the southerly slopes of the hill. Once again Percy loaded up his two 6-pounders and brought them into play, checking the American fire.

While the British were waiting for the fieldpieces to fulfill their usual objective, some of the soldiers wandered away from the ranks and resumed their old habits of plunder. One of them entering the home of Samuel Shed on the north side of the road got so intrigued by the contents of a highboy and was occupied so long in making his selection of treasures that he was left behind and soon slain by the following Militia. Bullets smashed through the window, killing the thief, riddling the highboy and spattering the victim's blood on both the choice piece of furniture and the floor. Some property in Somerville was destroyed by fire, Ebenezer Shed nearby losing his house and two other buildings and reporting damage to his fences and crops.

(The highboy was in existence as late as 1910 and still showed bloodstains and three bullet holes.)

James Miller, whose house farther along the road was to be damaged by the wildly firing Redcoats, stood on the side of Prospect Hill and fired again and again. When the British spotted him and answered the fire of his musket, a companion urged him to withdraw, saying, "Come, Miller, we've got to go." Miller, 65 years of age, replied, "I'm too old to run" and remained to be struck by no less than 13 musket balls. He was the only American to be killed in Somerville.

(A tablet bearing the words of Miller's immortal reply marks the approximate location where he fell, on Washington Street opposite Rossmore Street, near the Pope School. Prospect Hill, an important fortification of the Continental Army during the siege of Boston that followed, will be discussed in the final report of the Commission.)

The British now left Prospect Hill behind them and a hinterland that never again was to live under the rule of King George or his corrupt and incompetent ministers. The troops sped along the half-mile stretch that was to bring them to Charlestown Common and Charlestown Neck. Once they were across the Neck their worries would be over. The warships in the river could lay down a fire that would rake the narrow isthmus, while any advance by the Militia beyond it could be repulsed by a small force of artillery and infantry on Bunker Hill. General Heath appraised the situation correctly and ordered the Militia not to proceed beyond Charlestown Common, but "to halt and give over the pursuit, as any further attempt upon the enemy in that position would have become futile."

(The Bunker Hill referred to above is not the eminence where the Battle of Bunker Hill was subsequently fought on June 17, 1775, but an elevation slightly higher and about a quarter of a mile farther to the northwest. The battle took place on what is properly and particularly called Breed's Hill, a title that was not widely known or used in 1775. Both elevations were regarded as part of the same hill or ridge and both of them, to our confusion now, were called Bunker Hill.)

As the Regulars pushed past the east brow of Prospect Hill, the well trained battalion of 300 Minute Men from Salem under Colonel Timothy Pickering reached the top of Winter Hill, not more than a mile to the northwest. They saw the last of the running fight, but were too late to play any part in it.

7:00 P.M.

The last rays of daylight had faded and dusk was falling fast when the British column streamed into Charlestown Common and committed one last outrage to wind up the day's chronicle of violence. Edward Barber, 14 years of age and one of the 13 children of William Barber, a shipmaster, was at home and, from a window, watching the spectacular show made by the passing soldiers. The boy's head, in clear view above the window sill, was an easy mark for a Redcoat, who possibly mistook the lad for a sniper. Struck at close range, the boy fell back to the floor and in an instant was dead. This regrettable act by an erratic and undiscriminating foe marked the end of the day's bloodshed. The score was now even. Revenge in full had been exacted for the misdeed of the boy with the hatchet at Concord Bridge.

(The above incident occurred near the present Sullivan Square, where the road to the Penny Ferry across the Mystic River connected the part of Malden that is now Everett with Charlestown. No discernable trace of the site is in evidence today.)

The Militia companies that had followed the withdrawing Redcoats converged on Charlestown Common and their officers gathered at the foot of Prospect Hill for a council of war with General Heath. A guard was formed and sentinels posted to cover the road as far as Charlestown Neck.

Bands of Minute Men from the farms and workshops of more distant Massachusetts towns now began to appear. The bulk of the increasing force was ordered to Cambridge, where headquarters were established for the first American army. Within the next 24 hours, their numbers were to grow rapidly as hosts of animated yeomen from the neighboring Colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire trickled in to give support to their brothers in the "common cause." Then and there commenced the siege of Boston, an ordeal that was to continue for eleven months.

The last few musket shots flashed in the darkness as General Percy's exhausted troops filed over Charlestown Neck and reached the protection of Bunker Hill. There they flung themselves to the ground and waited, some of them for hours, until arrangements could be completed and boats provided to carry them across the river to Boston. Pickets from the 10th and 64th Regiments were sent over by General Gage to perform guard duty in Charlestown. An armistice was arranged by Percy and the Selectmen so that strife was avoided in the town. Removal of the troops over the Charles, beginning with the wounded, got under way and proceeded without attacks on either citizens or soldiers or the destruction of property. Thus ended the opening day of battle in the American Revolution.

The British forces, which did not exceed 1800 at the peak of their strength, had been exposed to an almost continuous fire from an opposition that had no less than 3700 men. The number pressing them at any one time, however, was never more than half of the total. The British losses were 73 killed, 174 wounded, 26 missing, a total of 273 casualties; while the Americans had 49 fatalities, 41 wounded and 5 missing, a total casualty list of 95. In spite of the thousands of shots exchanged between the Regulars and the Militia, seldom had the musket balls hit their targets. The widespread development of superior marksmanship, like the invention of superior weapons which marksmanship required, still lay in the future and had yet to be demonstrated on other battlefields.

Note on Sources of Information

No single volume contains all of the material used in the above narrative presented as a sequence of incidents. Though written accounts, especially by participating British officers, and local or family traditions, handed down from one generation to the next, have come to light or been rediscovered in recent years, the approach of the newer studies has been neither comprehensive nor detailed enough in scope to achieve completeness of the story or much insight into the physical setting of the numerous incidents. In fact, the vogue for sophistic and digressive treatment, while furthering the cause of historical impartiality, has tended to rob the day of much of its color and interest as a chapter in the mainstream of American history.

The few titles listed below include studies recent enough to cover the latest discoveries from research as well as earlier works, some of which deal with incidents that are now largely forgotten, or at least no longer in fashion, in recounting the contest between the King's Regulars and the people of Middlesex:

Coburn, Frank Warren. The Battle of April 19, 1775. Lexington, Mass., 1912. The most detailed and useful account. The author knew the topographical and man-made features of every inch of the ground and related many of the incidents to them.

Drake, Samuel Adams. Historic Fields and Mansions of Middlesex. Boston, 1874. Only the most obvious legendary and traditional material.

French, Allen. The Day of Concord and Lexington. Boston, 1925. The most scholarly work on the subject. Valuable for its broad point of view, evaluation and critical use of source materials. Less helpful in presentation of detailed factual material.

Frothingham, Richard. History of the Siege of Boston. Boston, 1872. Includes the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Objective for its time, but now much improved upon.

Heath, William. Memoirs of General William Heath during the American War. Boston, 1798. Reprinted, 1904, in the series Source Books of American History. Valuable for incidents connected with the British retreat in which the General played a part.

Hersey, Frank Wilson Cheney. Heroes of the Battle Road, 1775. Boston, 1930. Particularly helpful on incidents which occurred in Lincoln and were neglected by Coburn and French.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts. Boston, 1868. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, 1913. Exemplary local history, but sometimes sketchy where more detail is anticipated.

Hurd, Duane Hamilton. History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia, 1890. Valuable for accounts of adjacent towns that sent Minute Men and Militia.

King, Daniel P. Address Commemorative of Seven Young Men of Danvers who were Slain in the Battle of Lexington. Salem, 1835. Relates to the encounter in which the Danvers men were killed at the Jason Russell House in Arlington.

Lancaster, Bruce. From Lexington to Liberty, The Story of the American Revolution. New York, 1955. Mainstream of American History Series. Forthright and fresh interpretation based on an up-to-date appraisal of the most important sources.

Murdock, Harold. The Nineteenth of April, 1775. Boston and New York, 1923. Critical essays serving a useful purpose as a corrective for excesses committed by writers on controversial issues relating to the day.

Scheer, George F. and Rankin, Hugh F. Rebels and Redcoats. New York, 1957. The opening chapters covering the outbreak of the Revolution appeared in American Heritage, February, 1957, pp. 66-79. A heavy and almost excessive projection of source materials into the text. Useful, however, as a compilation embodying highly evaluated sources.

Smith, Samuel Abbott. West Cambridge on the Nineteenth of April, 1775. Boston, 1864. Reprint, 1955. Vivid and colorful presentation of the running fight and pillage of buildings at Menotomy. Local history that is also the Nation's history faithfully assembled, with citations of persons interviewed and contributing data.

Ward, Christopher. The War of the Revolution. 2 vols. New York, 1952. Compressed but commendable use of details and incidents about the opening of hostilities in a work of excellent balance and real merit that will have a lasting value.

Wheildon, William W. New Chapter in the History of the Concord Fight; Groton Minute-Men at the North Bridge, April 19, 1775. Boston, 1885. Seldom used material about the removal of military stores from Concord and the role of the Groton Minute Men.

APPENDIX C

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Arranged by towns and in nearly the same order as mentioned in the chronological narrative of Appendix B.

Lexington

Settled as Cambridge Farms in 1642, Lexington was carved out of Cambridge as a separate township in 1713. Cambridge, settled in 1630, and Concord, in 1635, were originally contiguous towns.

Hancock-Clarke House

The old parsonage where John Hancock and Samuel Adams were staying with the Reverend Jonas Clarke when the British marched on the night of April 18, 1775, is about a quarter of a mile beyond Lexington Green in a northerly direction on the east side of the present Hancock Street. At the time of the opening bloodshed, no buildings interfered with the view from the house to the Green and the firing was clearly seen from the chamber windows. The house then stood on the opposite side of the street, but was moved across the road to its present location by the Lexington Historical Society in 1896 in order to save it. The owner from whom the Society acquired it emphatically refused to allow it to remain on its original lot, and was proposing to tear it down when the Society stepped in and rescued it. The old lot is unobstructed by buildings today and the Society cherishes the hope of eventually restoring the house to its former and proper location.

The house consists of two parts, which were erected at different times. The little gambrel-roofed ell, containing a

common living room or kitchen and a tiny parson's study downstairs and two low-ceilinged chambers above, was built in 1698 by the Reverend John Hancock, grandfather of the renowned patriot and Signer of the Declaration of Independence. The main part, with a large central chimney and two rooms on each of the two floors, is of more ample proportions. It was added in 1734 at the expense of Thomas Hancock, second son of the clergyman and a successful Boston merchant.

The Revolutionary leader, John Hancock, spent seven years of his boyhood in the home of his grandparents after the death of his own father, the Reverend John Hancock of Braintree. In 1764, he inherited the large estate of his Boston uncle, Thomas Hancock, and when the Revolution broke out he still had close family ties with the old home in Lexington, for his cousin, Lucy Bowes, was the wife of the Reverend Jonas Clarke.

The famous patriot's grandfather lived in the house for 55 years and his successor, the Reverend Clarke, for 50 years. The latter was an outstanding preacher and patriot, and through his sermons exerted a powerful influence in the popular resistance against the royal authority. The parsonage he occupied became a meeting place for patriot leaders and it was natural that John Hancock, his relative by marriage, and Samuel Adams, an important associate in the Revolutionary movement, should seek both his counsel and refuge in his home.

The Hancock-Clarke House owes its existence today to the efforts of the Lexington Historical Society and two clergymen,

neither of whom were natives of the town, but who perhaps did as much to save its history in their own age as Hancock and Clarke had helped to make it in another. They were the Reverend Edward G. Porter, pastor of the Hancock Congregational Church from 1868 to 1891, and the Reverend Carleton A. Staples, minister of the First Parish Church, the original religious establishment in the town that had become Unitarian earlier in the century.

Porter, who had had the benefit of advanced study at Berlin, Heidelberg and Athens before training for the ministry and going to Lexington, was both active in research and prolific as a writer and published much in local history as well as broader fields. Through his writings and travels, Porter never missed an opportunity to call attention to Lexington and in retrospect has been credited with doing "more than any other individual both at home and abroad to awaken the sense and to extend the knowledge of the town's exalted history."

Staples, though born in Massachusetts, had gone as a young minister to St. Louis and served as a chaplain in the Union Army, 1861-1862. He did not take up his pastoral work in Lexington until 1881, but from then on until his death in 1904 was constantly occupied with uplifting the town's history as well as its religious life.

In 1884, Staples was instrumental in getting a town meeting to appoint a committee on historical monuments and tablets of which Porter was a member and he was chairman. The committee functioned for a year and with an appropriation of

$1,500 put up the stone monuments and tablets that mark most of the sites along the route taken by the British in their march and retreat through the town and that have been mentioned in this report in connection with the chronological narrative in Appendix B. This worthy project was the outcome of a declaration that the "placing of appropriate tablets upon spots and objects associated not only with our town history, but with the history of our country, is a duty which we owe to the memory of the actors in the great event for which Lexington will ever be distinguished."

The next step in promoting the history of the town was the organization of the Lexington Historical Society in 1886. Staples and Porter signed and posted the notice for the first meeting over their names. Among the objectives of the new body, they included "the suitable commemoration from year to year, by appropriate services, of the great event which has rendered the town forever memorable in the annals of our country."

In another couple of years, Staples recognized and had come to grips with the problem of historical preservation. In a paper read before the Society on April 10, 1888, he made a strong plea for saving the Hancock-Clarke House. The Society was more fortunate than similar groups undertaking such a venture today, for it had eight years in which to make up its mind and financial worries of less magnitude, finally buying the house and moving it in the fall of 1896 at a total expense, including the cost of a new lot and repairs, of $3,200.

A brick addition was made at the rear of the Hancock-

Clarke House in 1902 with a fireproof vault to protect the more valuable possessions of the Society, some of which have already been referred to in Appendix B. All told, the Society's collection now numbers over 2400 items, the most important being related to the one day in the town's history that also belongs to the Nation.

It is extraordinary but fitting that a bronze tablet placed on a boulder beside the house in 1940 pays tribute to the Reverend Carleton A. Staples, whose endeavors in its behalf and that of the Society now makes him a part of their illustrious heritage. An important objective in the Society's program was to encourage a better observance of the notable day in the town's history. Legislation to make the 19th of April a legal holiday in Massachusetts was initiated in 1894 and auspiciously achieved in 1904 to mark the year of Staples' death as another one of victory in a cause he had also fostered in order to inculcate respect and veneration for the historic past.

The Society has kept the house under circumspect surveillance over the years both from the standpoint of regular maintenance and more thoroughgoing restoration. As a result, the aspect of any alterations or additions of the last century that would now be obviously recognized as incorrect in a dwelling dating back to 1698 and 1734 has been eliminated and the early character of the house fully revived. The major problem, if any, confronting the Society in the quest for perfection is the happy prospect that some day the house may be moved back to the other side of the street and then remain forever in the spot where it

was witness to events that contributed toward the making of the Nation.

Munroe Tavern

This structure is the principal building that survives as a permanent reminder of General Percy's rescue party and its destructive activities while the beaten British expeditionary force was being brought safely within its lines. It occupies an elm-shaded knoll on the west side of Massachusetts Avenue, almost a mile southeast of Lexington Green.

The old tavern, which was the second building to be acquired by the Lexington Historical Society, came to the local organization by bequest from Munroe descendants. The spirit in which James S. Munroe gave expression to his thoughts in offering the property to the Society in 1911 on behalf of his deceased brother, William H. Munroe, and himself could well be emulated today by potential benefactors. He believed "that those landmarks in our country's history, which have become identified as monuments of great social and political events, ought to be preserved to posterity, not alone for their intrinsic interest but more especially for their power in bringing to the minds and hearts of that posterity a realization of the courage, self-sacrifice and loyal devotion of our forefathers." The highest aim of the cause of historical preservation could not have been better stated.

The earliest part of the old tavern was built in 1695 by William Munroe. In 1775, it was run by his namesake and

grandson, who has been encountered in the chronological narrative of Appendix B as a sergeant in the Lexington company of Minute Men. The structure was then larger than it is today. Sometime after 1770, an ell containing a recreation hall or ballroom about 60 feet by 20 feet was added at the northwest side as a second rear wing. This ell was later removed, leaving the main house and a single ell that have come down to the present and are maintained in good condition. Ample grounds with large trees provide an unusually attractive setting for the ancient structure. Members of the Munroe family now appropriately occupy part of the house as custodians for the Society. The clapboarding of the exterior painted in an 18th century hue of bright red attained by mixing red ochre with buttermilk is a successful example of restoration in color.

Inside, a bullet hole in the barroom ceiling remains as evidence of the exuberance or fright of a Redcoat who discharged his musket. He was but one of many who crossed its threshold during the interval of rest before the united force of 1700 or more men took up the retreat toward Boston. While the British were in the building and ruthlessly killed the cripple, John Raymond, Mrs. Munroe and her children hid in the woods behind the house.

Besides the visit by the British, the Munroe family had memories of one made under happier circumstances by the great leader who in the end prevailed over the common foe. On his tour of New England in 1789, General Washington was entertained at the Munroe Tavern on November 5. Several articles of furniture and

household effects that he used have been carefully preserved and are shown to visitors.

Like the Hancock-Clarke House, the Munroe Tavern possesses many objects dating from the Revolutionary time. The exhibits are subject to periodic rearrangement and improvement by the Society, but for the most part the building offers no serious nor unsolved problems in preservation or display.

Buckman Tavern

The oldest of a dozen hostelries that did a thriving business in Lexington before the age of rapid transportation, the Buckman Tavern is also the one most intimately associated with the initial exchange of shots in the Revolution. Its walls still bear the scars left by British musket balls. Opposite the east side of the Battle Green, it appears in the background of almost every illustration depicting the brief contest between Major Pitcairn's platoons of light infantry and Captain Parker's double row of undaunted Minute Men.

The original structure was erected about 1690 by Benjamin Muzzey, who in 1693 was licensed to keep a public house. A section of an original sidewall with its interesting clapboards was saved when a later addition was made and can be seen in the present building, which by 1775 had taken on the form it has for the most part kept ever since. Some restoration, to be sure, has been necessary and some yet remains to be performed. It is certain, however, that in the end results as satisfactory as those at the Hancock-Clarke House and the Munroe Tavern will be achieved.

The tavern takes its name from John Buckman, who in 1775 was the proprietor and also a member of the Lexington company of Minute Men. His public house was a convenient gathering place for his comrades in arms on the days they trained on the Green, and it was natural they should assemble there again during the evening and through the night that preceded the arrival of the King's Regulars. The first village store was located in the building, and in 1812 it housed the town's first post office.

The effects of these and subsequent uses had to be eradicated after the structure was acquired by the Town of Lexington in 1913. With the grounds that surround it, the tavern provides a verdant border and significant extension of the triangle formed by the Battle Green. The Lexington Historical Society, already the owner of the Hancock-Clarke House and the Munroe Tavern, made a generous contribution toward its purchase by the town and under a 99-year lease took on the task of furnishing the building and showing it to the public. The officers and members of the Society have persisted in this role with steady and satisfactory progress.

In addition to being exhibited as an historic house museum, the old tavern, which retains its 18th century tap room with a huge fireplace on the large central chimney, serves as the headquarters for the Lexington Minute Men, Inc., an organization which helps to keep alive the traditions of Captain Parker's company.

Lexington Green

Most important of the historic properties in Lexington being protected under local auspices is the Common or Green, where the short but famous skirmish with the expeditionary force sent out by General Gage occurred at sunrise on the day that was to initiate the long struggle for American liberty.

The Common came into existence in 1711, two years before the Town of Lexington itself was incorporated, when the inhabitants of Cambridge Farms bought an acre and a half of ground around the first meetinghouse. The latter had been erected in 1692, the year after Cambridge Farms or the north precinct of Cambridge, first settled about 1642, had been set off as a separate parish. A second meetinghouse replaced the first in 1713, the year Lexington achieved identity as a distinct town. This meetinghouse is the structure that shows up behind the British troops at the east end of the Common in most of the prints and paintings illustrating the first fatal shedding of blood on the 19th of April. The initial purchase of land in 1711 had cost the inhabitants £16. In 1772, £25 more was expended by the town to enlarge the Common by an acre.

The second meetinghouse, which would be an historic building of real significance if it remained today, gave way in 1794 to a third building, which burned in 1846. The new First Parish Church, completed the next year in the Greek Revival style by the architect, Isaac Melvin, did not follow its predecessors on the Green, but was erected opposite the southwest

corner facing the triangular plot of hallowed ground. The approximate site of the first three meetinghouses, which served the community for 154 years, is marked by a stone monument in the form of a pulpit.

Monumentation, in fact, is the prevalent manner of treating the spots of historical interest on the Green. It was also the site used in 1799 in creating a permanent memorial to the martyrs who now rest in peace not far from where they fell on the fateful morning. The so-called Revolutionary Monument, near the southwest corner of the Common, is of outstanding interest not only for the eight victims of the action it commemorates, but for its pleasingly simple design and forthright spirit of patriotism that were typical of the best examples of monumentation in the days of the Early Republic. It comes somewhat as a shock to learn today that the Lexington Monument Association, organized in 1850, experimented with the idea of superseding it with a more fashionable monument, which without doubt would have expressed the degenerating taste of that age.

The Revolutionary Monument was built, as it states,

"UNDER THE PATRONAGE & AT THE EXPENSE, OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,"

on the site of the first schoolhouse the town had voted to "eract" in 1714. A plain shaft of granite, its south face bears an inscription that the ardent patriot and respected clergyman, the Reverend Jonas Clarke, lived long enough to compose and doubtless

took rewarding satisfaction in dedicating as -

"SACRED TO LIBERTY & THE RIGHTS OF MANKIND!!!
THE FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE OF AMERICA
SEALED & DEFENDED WITH THE BLOOD OF HER SONS."

The bodies of the eight Minute Men who were killed on the Battle Green were first interred together in one lot in the Old Burying Ground nearby, but on April 20, 1835, their remains were taken up and laid in a tomb constructed in back of the Revolutionary Monument. The ceremony was the occasion for a stirring address by the famous orator, Edward Everett.

Other features of the Battle Green today are two inscribed boulders, a life-size statue of a Minute Man and a very tall flagpole for the National Emblem and a scroll bearing the town's favorite sentiment or watchword, "Birthplace of American Liberty." One of the boulders marks the site of the Old Belfry, which was not placed on the meetinghouse but stood as a small separate structure on the south side of the Common near the meetinghouse from 1768 until 1797. Like the meetinghouse and the Buckman Tavern, the Old Belfry is depicted in most of the illustrations of the engagement on the Green. It is debatable whether revival of the Old Belfry on the Green, where it rang out the alarm on the eve of the Revolution, would not have been preferable to returning it to its original location of 1761 on a hill out of sight just south of the Green. In 1891, however, it was removed to the hill from the Parker Homestead, about two miles away, and reproduced there again after a destructive gale in 1909.

The second boulder on the Green, not far from the northwest corner, identifies approximately one end of the line where Captain Parker's courageous company formed and waited to defy Pitcairn's light infantry. Also inscribed on the smooth face of the boulder are the appropriate symbols of a flintlock musket and powder horn and the inspiring order delivered by Captain Parker to his men:

"STAND YOUR GROUND. DON'T FIRE UNLESS FIRED UPON. BUT IF THEY MEAN TO HAVE A WAR, LET IT BEGIN HERE."

The most ostentatious example of monumentation on the Green stands at the easterly corner facing the thoroughfare the British marched up at daybreak to find Captain Parker's little band drawn up to oppose them. It consists of a statue of a Minute Man by the sculptor, Henry H. Kitson, perched on a pile of rather obviously contrived rocks over a stone fountain, that is now a nostalgic reminder of the days before all carriages became horseless. The statue and the public watering place "for men, horses, cattle and dogs" were unveiled in 1900 and collectively are known as the Hayes Memorial Fountain. A bequest to the town of $10,000 under the will of Francis B. Hayes, who was not born in Lexington but saw fit to become one of its benefactors, was used for the purpose. The project was conceived and carried out by a committee of which the ever active Reverend Carleton A. Staples served as the guiding light and chairman. A common misconception exists that the statue represents Captain John Parker. It is in fact an ideal likeness of a Minute Man, for no picture nor revealing description of Captain Parker has ever been found.

As a result of the additions made between 1885 and 1900 by the public-spirited generation of which the Reverend Staples was a striking example, the Battle Green was transformed from a casually maintained open space for the common use of the inhabitants into a monumental park. Prior to that time, the Green had been enclosed by stone posts and connecting rails and was used for playing baseball and other games. The Revolutionary Monument was the only evidence of its importance as an historic site. The situation changed not only because of the growth of an interest in the town's illustrious history but the inception of new ideas about village improvement, ornamental planting and park development. In this direction, the Lexington Field and Garden Club, which began to function in 1876, turned its hand and by another decade made its influence perceptibly felt in effecting a well kept and planted appearance that the Common has retained ever since.

The Battle Green and the adjacent Buckman Tavern now comprise the major part of one of the three historic districts in Lexington that are protected by an act adopted at the state level in 1956. The other two districts have been set up for the benefit of the Hancock-Clarke House and the Munroe Tavern, both of which have been discussed in preceding sections of this appendix.

In conjunction with these historic districts, an historic districts commission functions with powers and duties directed primarily toward the proper control of changes that may take place amid the surroundings and settings of the significant

landmarks specified. The basic legislation embracing both the districts and the commission is Chapter 447 of the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved June 11, 1956, and is provided for reference as Appendix D. The districts themselves are shown on the comprehensive plan for the Battle Road in Appendix F.

The principal manner in which Lexington's historic districts commission thus far has had occasion to act more or less parallels that of an architectural board of review. As the preparation of this report draws near completion, the full scope of the commission's authority is being put to a severe test by a church organization in need of expanding its plant in direct view of the historic Battle Green! Whatever the outcome, the concept of the historic district is an intelligent innovation and, from the standpoint of historical preservation, is an encouraging step in the right direction. At the very least, it furnishes the consoling assurance that, in anticipation of changes or improvements inside the boundaries of an established district, proper thought and consideration, as never before, will be given to saving historical values in their fullest implication.

The course that is now set by the Town of Lexington and the Lexington Historical Society for the preservation of the well-known Revolutionary battle site and the several buildings along the historic wayside holds great promise of ground henceforth to be gradually gained instead of lost. To be sure, the compulsion to make any drastic changes or improvements in these areas is of less moment in this century than it was in the last.

It certainly is not necessary to duplicate the feats of a previous generation in putting up monuments on Lexington Green!

The Green, however, could be made more interesting as an historic site than it is today. A definite need exists for better interpretation and interpretive devices that will provide better aids to visitors and more details about the opening encounter with the Redcoats at dawn and its relationship to other incidents of the historic day. A plethora of signs is not the solution to the problem. Yet more is desirable than the shreds and fragments the untutored visitor has to pick up here and there.

Restoration, to be sure, can be carried to excess, but in the case of Lexington Green the reappearance of the Old Belfry that sounded the alarm after midnight and the meetinghouse that was the first target of the British artillery would enhance the historic setting and distinctly re-create more of the Revolutionary atmosphere that alone is suggested today by the presence of the Buckman Tavern.

With a view toward exploring these ends and as a field in which progress might be made in the years that lie ahead, the Commission is of one accord in recommending that the Town of Lexington and the Secretary of the Interior enter into a cooperative agreement as provided by the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666), the text of which may be referred to in Appendix E of this report. In any case, a formal realization of mutual understanding and cooperation on the part of the Town and the Nation is a preliminary step that will need to precede the larger aims and objectives for a national

historical park that are proposed in the main body of this report.

Muzzey House

A full five miles of rural landscape lay between the outskirts of the village of Lexington and Concord in 1775. Not less than 16 houses, and probably more, were then close enough to the road that crossed this stretch of agricultural countryside to be identified as landmarks along its path. Of these, eight are still standing today and five of them receive some measure of treatment under separate headings in this appendix.

The sole survivor in Lexington is the Muzzey House, just west of the Bluff and not far from the Lincoln line. Built about 1743, it is notable as the home of Yeoman John Muzzey, a Minute Man himself and the sire of Minute Men. His sons, John and Thaddeus, saw military service in the common cause after the 19th of April and the eldest of his offspring, Isaac, was one of the eight martyrs who gave their lives in the bloodshed at sunrise on Lexington Green.

The Muzzey House, in the eighteenth century, was a constituent and functional part of the homestead at Muzzey's farm, containing some 40 acres of fields, pastures and woodland. The barn and other outlying buildings are now gone, leaving the old house as the only remaining structure of what was once a farm group typical of Colonial New England. The house itself formerly had appendages at the rear besides the remaining lean-to that rises to a height of two stories.

The farm passed out of the hands of the Muzzeys in 1845, when an administrator's sale was held in order to settle the estate of John Muzzey's grandson and namesake. During the course of the next century, the farm had more than a dozen different occupants and owners, none of whom represented any enduring association with the place exclusive of Leonard A. Saville, a prominent citizen of the town and an officer of the local historical society, who was in possession for two decades, 1877-1897.

It was during the period of Saville's occupancy that a committee appointed at a town meeting became engaged in the task of erecting suitable stone tablets and monuments to identify and commemorate significant sites relating to action and incidents on the historic 19th of April. It was particularly fitting that the granite boulder, weighing some 15 tons, that now marks the line of the Minute Men on Lexington Green and that also bears the immortal words of Captain Parker to his company should have been taken at this time from the old farm of one of their number - Private John Muzzey.

The stoutly-framed old Muzzey House suffered from lack of repairs and regular maintenance after the Saville ownership, but, with the boom of real estate and demand for suburban housing that has followed World War II, it has been rehabilitated and adapted to the needs of a modern family. The integrity of the main house, which is dominated by a huge central chimney and still retains the original fireplace panels, has not been seriously affected by the postwar improvements. The essentials for

a satisfactory restoration remain.

As a structure that is representative of the staunch yeomanry and resolute farmers who furnished the backbone of resistance on the historic day, the Muzzey House merits proper steps to assure its preservation. It is a logical choice for such action, since it lies within the boundaries of the continuous area, reaching from Route 128 to Meriam's Corner, that the Commission recommends for acquisition and unification into a national historical park.

Lincoln

The Town of Lincoln was incorporated in 1754. Prior to that date, the three houses discussed below, which were built in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, were in the Town of Concord.

Sergeant Samuel Hartwell House

A typical New England farmhouse of the Colonial period, this old dwelling has been added to and operated for about three decades as a country restaurant of real charm and high quality under the name of Hartwell Farm. The present owners claim it dates back to 1636, but the size and shape of this large clapboarded structure, the arrangement of its rooms and the interior woodwork, including some fine pine panelling, suggest construction possibly as much as a century later.

Sergeant Samuel Hartwell of the Lincoln Minute Men, who occupied the house in 1775, was the fifth generation in descent from Samuel Hartwell, one of the early settlers who came to Concord in 1636. An older house, erected by the first Hartwell, may very well have prepared the way for the present one. The huge central chimney and perhaps a few other features may be partial survivals from a 17th century predecessor.

Sergeant Hartwell was 32 years old and his wife, Mary, 27 when Dr. Prescott rode up to their back door and made them part of a great day in history. The account of spreading the alarm to Captain William Smith and of other incidents of the day was handed down by Mary Hartwell, who died in 1846 at the age of 98, to her grandchildren, Deacon Jonas Hartwell,

Samuel Hartwell and Mary A. Hartwell Rogers. The grandsons in turn made the dramatic family story available to Frank W. C. Hersey, a native of Lincoln and a Harvard University professor, who finally published the highlights of his earlier exploration of the history of his home town on the 18th and 19th of April, 1775, in Heroes of the Battle Road. Hersey's narrative is valuable as it fills the gap of episodes in Lincoln, which writer after writer before him, concentrating on Lexington or Concord or both, had left open.

It is almost a century since the Sergeant Samuel Hartwell House passed out of the family. Its use as a popular and sensitively run eating place has doubtless brought many people across its doorstep who otherwise would never have become aware of its existence. If it continues to be operated as it has been by the proprietors who conceived the idea for its current form of exploitation, no harm beyond that already done in order to convert it to its present function may be expected. The presence of safeguards, however, is essential to prevent any future prospect of deterioration or debasing use that would destroy patriotic pride and pleasure in its Revolutionary associations with Samuel and Mary Hartwell.

Captain William Smith House

An earlier house on a knoll east of Sergeant Samuel Hartwell's was the home in 1775 of Captain William Smith of the Lincoln Militia. The Captain was a brother of Abigail Adams,

wife of John Adams, the statesman of the Revolution and Second President of the United States. A farm with the house had come to Smith through marriage to Catherine Louisa Salmon of Medford, who had inherited it from her mother and stepfather in 1770. The next year Smith and his wife had occasion to mortgage the place to his father, the Reverend William Smith of Weymouth. In 1774, Abigail Adams made a visit to the farm to see her father, a bit of information she relayed to her husband, who was away from home in the cause of the Colonies.

Before moving to the farm, Captain Smith had worked for an uncle, who was a successful Boston merchant. He had become a Son of Liberty, being one of the number who dined at the Liberty Tree Inn in Dorchester on August 14, 1769. Following the opening of the war, he fought at Bunker Hill and served elsewhere in the Revolution. A cloud, however, hung over him the last years of his life and his career had been a checkered one when he died of black jaundice in 1787.

The Reverend William Smith willed the farm back to his daughter-in-law, when he died in 1785, and she lived on until 1823. Her daughter, Betsey, the youngest of six children, who had married James H. Foster of Boston in 1798, then became the next owner. In her prolific correspondence, Abigail Adams mentions the Fosters. She knew Betsey well enough to describe her as possessing "a hereditary spice of the romantic in her constitution." John Quincy Adams, the Sixth President, and his son, Charles Francis Adams, continued the family acquaintance and refer frequently in their diaries to calls on their cousins, the Fosters, whose ownership of the farm continued until at least 1875.

About this time, the house was subjected to so-called modern improvements. Enough of its early character, however, is left today and enough about it is known to date it before 1700. Described by one authority as "the oldest house in Lincoln," it was probably built soon after Benjamin Whittemore, in 1693, purchased the land on which it still stands.

A neighbor of some 20 or more years ago recalled "that as a boy he helped his father take down the big chimney, twelve feet square in the cellar and built of soft brick made from clay beds on the farm." Early photographs show this huge central chimney had a top of the "ten commandments" style - the shape of "Moses' two tables of stone" being formed by recesses in the brickwork on the front face just above the ridge of the roof. Though this magnificent specimen of colonial craftsmanship is now gone and has been replaced by two smaller chimneys adequate only for heating by stoves or furnace instead of fireplaces, the wide plastered coving under the eaves at the front, the overhangs on both pediments of the main house and the sparing use of windows in a house originally but one-room deep remain as strong indications of a structure of 17th century origin. An ell at the rear is demonstrated by photographs to be a later addition.

The chronological narrative in Appendix B has related the incident of the wounded British soldier who was taken in by the Smiths and died in their home. The house, indeed, is an intrinsic part of the Battle Road and merits measures to assure its protection and revival in connection with the chain of incidents that marked the historic day.

Hartwell Tavern

The house which Ephraim Hartwell ran as a tavern in 1775 was also his lifelong home from 1707 to 1793. Like Samuel Hartwell at the next farm, his ancestor, William Hartwell, had settled at this place in 1636. The older part of the house, on the west side, is a typical specimen of a late 17th century gambrel-roofed dwelling, with but one story clear of the roof. The main house to which it is joined is probably not much later. It has two stories in the clear at the front and a pitch roof which runs as a lean-to down to the first-story level at the rear, forming the shape of a Colonial dwelling that sometimes goes by the name of saltbox. Taken together the two parts embody and illustrate much that was common in domestic architecture prior to 1700 and after.

Details of repair work performed in recent years do not correspond with the structure as it appeared in early photographs, but the house is still basically the same and, other than a porch or two, has been spared the misfortune of later appendages. More distressing has been the elimination of farming, not only at this old homestead but also at the other two historic houses in Lincoln already described, and the intrusion of contrasting styles of postwar habitations that threaten to destroy what little is left of an appealing and time-honored setting. The situation may yet be saved, however, and in time corrected by planning in accord with the recommendations provided as part of this report.

Concord

A town with a history that goes back to 1635 and, until recently, spared exposure to severe suburban growth, Concord retains much that is rich from the past, including numerous buildings that were standing when Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn paraded their troops in the public square and initiated the search for military stores.

Old Manse

A structure that looks even more venerable than it is, with its drooping gambrel-roof and dusky-colored clapboards, the Old Manse was built in 1769 by the Reverend William Emerson, grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous man-of-letters. The first to answer the alarm in Concord, he was ever zealous and devoted to the cause of the American Colonies until he died of a fever on the way home in 1777 from Fort Ticonderoga, where he had served the Continental troops as Chaplain. He was witness to the initial contest at arms in Concord at the North Bridge, just north of the Old Manse, and the account he left of the turn of events is one of the sources from which historians have benefited. His home was later intimately associated with his grandson, the philosopher and poet, and another renowned figure in American literary life, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Both the house and the land around it are important as part of the authentic setting for the fight at the North Bridge. The American people are indebted to the Trustees of Reservations, a privately administered but voluntarily supported organization that was chartered in 1891 for the preservation of scenic and historic spots in Massachusetts. The Trustees, through the untiring and strenuous enterprise of their Executive

Secretary and Director, Laurence B. Fletcher, raised the money by subscription in 1939 to acquire the house and spare its surroundings, inimitably described by Hawthorne in Mosses from an Old Manse, from a fate that might seriously have impaired a significant American scene.

The future of the property held by the Trustees seems reasonably assured, yet the plan recommended in this report for enlarging the protected area around the North Bridge and the Old Manse needs to be adopted in order to cope with any unfavorable eventualities and to enhance an outstanding historic site, which, according to many visitors, is now too small and fragmentary to do justice and pay proper respect to the events they should signify to the thousands of Americans who come there.

The Old Manse has been well managed by the Trustees with very limited funds available to maintain and show it to the public. Few historic houses in the country today carry the same conviction of undisturbed authenticity and antiquity. It is expected that the Trustees will continue to keep the house unaltered and unimpaired for many years to come.

Wright's Tavern

A landmark more memorable and significant than is sometimes realized today is Wright's Tavern in the center of town. Built in 1747, this ancient, low-studded hostelry, distinguished by its red clapboards and roof of the monitor or double-hipped style, has come down through two centuries with

fewer changes than many of its historic contemporaries. Its first proprietor, Ephraim Jones, who ran it until 1751, was a town official and captain in the Militia. Facing the meeting-house on one side and the training ground on the other, the establishment Jones started was destined to be a resort for the conduct of both town and military business, and where, between the meetings of selectmen and committees, the landlord served up refreshments customary to the time.

The place was operated by Amos Wright for only a little while, but this short period included the year 1775 and was of enough moment to associate his name with the old tavern forever. Within a few hours on the 19th of April, both Minute Men and Red-coats stepped over its threshold, the former congregating there on hearing the courthouse bell ring out the alarm and the offi-cers of the British expeditionary force after their arrival in the public square. No doubt the latter helped themselves to the innkeeper's liquors and one of their number, whether it was the frequently maligned Pitcairn or some bragging subaltern mistaken for him, stirred his sugar and brandy with a bloody finger in expectancy of similar contact with the blood of Yankees before the day would be over.

Wright's Tavern, like several buildings along the route of the British march and retreat, has interesting associ-ations with the local citizens in arms and the invader. On top of this connection, however, the old hostelry boasts an added and greater distinction that is seldom stressed or even mention-ed. It is the relationship it bore to important events that

transpired in the meetinghouse of the First Parish next door. The latter had been built in 1712 and was where 300 delegates from Massachusetts towns, with John Hancock as President and Benjamin Lincoln as Secretary, were "called together to maintain the rights of the people" on October 11, 1774, and remained in session for five days. As the Provincial Congress, the assembled delegates assumed the government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Through the measures passed at this session and another, which met for four weeks before adjourning April 15, 1775, they "prepared the way for the War of the Revolution." The measures passed gave a formal status to the rebellion of the people by ending the payment of taxes to King George and making provision for a force under arms ready to resist his authority.

While the Congress sat in the neighboring meetinghouse, the little inn beside it served as a convenient meeting place for its committees. Their members passed back and forth between the two buildings in prolonged and serious deliberation of the epoch-making business at hand. Thus was the old tavern made doubly significant by its association with the Provincial Congress and the first day of the war.

After 1775, the building did not continue to be a place of lodging and entertainment. For a decade it was a bakery. Then, in 1793, Reuben Brown, the saddler who had put in a busy morning on receiving news of the British march, bought it. For a century thereafter, it was used variously by a liveryman, book-binder, storekeeper, tinsmith and shoe dealer. The Society of the First Parish finally rescued it from a precarious future,

through the generosity of two of the town's prominent and public-spirited citizens, and, until recently, it again functioned discreetly in its original role as a public house.

The adjacent meetinghouse was briefly the Provincial Capital of the American Revolution. Built in 1712 with its long side parallel to the road, it was three stories high and adorned by neither a belfry nor cupola. Two handsome and imposing church structures in the Classical style of architecture have replaced it, the last in 1901. The modest little tavern nearby, however, where Amos Wright acted as host to the patriots who insisted on being free men, has lived on. It deserves more thoughtful recognition than it receives today as a reminder of that important interval of transition in the struggle with the motherland when Colonial resistance in the form of constitutional arguments came to an end and organized and overt acts of Revolution began. The change, to be sure, was essential to the unfolding of ideas about Independence and the union of the Colonies to create a new Nation.

Reuben Brown House

The saddler, Reuben Brown, who in 1775 also made cartridge boxes and other articles needed by the Minute Men, lived about 100 yards east of the meetinghouse and Wright's Tavern. His house and harness shop stood on the north side of Lexington Road along the historic stretch, from the public square to Meriam's Corner, now familiarly known as the "American Mile."

The Liberty Pole which the British light infantry chopped down as they marched into town had stood on the ridge

behind Brown's house. Later in the morning, the grenadiers returned to search the harness shop and, in their zeal to destroy Brown's stock of war materials, set fire to the house as well as the shop, burning off the end of the kitchen before the neighbors could extinguish the flames. The British force under Lieutenant Colonel Smith had received instructions not to destroy private property. Reuben Brown's house proved to be the only private dwelling in Concord that was an exception to this order, and it may be said that it caught on fire by accident. After the British left town, one of their number who had been captured was held by Brown in the house as a prisoner.

The house is one of the oldest in Concord. It was built in 1667 by Colonel Peter Bulkeley, a grandson of the Reverend Peter Bulkeley, the first minister and one of the founders of the town. The addition of a vestibule entrance at the front and other refinements now give the structure the exterior aspect of a dwelling erected a century later. Inside, however, the size of the fireplaces on the central chimney, the character of the chimney pieces and the panelling furnish indisputable evidence of an earlier origin. Several saddlers had occupied the house and shop before Reuben Brown came from Sudbury, not long before the outbreak of war, to practice his craft.

The story of the structure as an historic house museum is more unusual and is as interesting as its relationship to Concord's day of Revolutionary warfare. The house bears the unique distinction of having been one of the first historic

houses in the country to be shown to the public as a museum and then retired again to the condition of a private residence, a status it retains today. The occasion for its use as a museum was inspired by farsighted individuals in the town, who conceived the idea of showing a fabulous collection of antiques of great local interest in the properly domestic atmosphere of an old home of appropriate age. The collection was the work of Cummings E. Davis, an eccentric of modest means and man of odd jobs, who, nevertheless, was able a century ago to indulge in the rare hobby of gathering at the cost of a few dollars what have now become treasures of great price.

Fine pieces of furniture by early Concord cabinetmakers and large quantities of glass, china and other items, highly prized today but out of fashion and unappreciated at the time, were assembled by Davis in a room he rented from the town and shown to the public for an admission charge. This exhibition of antiques had gone on for some little time before it was realized the aged collector would not live forever and the preservation of the curiosities he had brought to light might prove to be a project of permanent interest and value to the community. As a result, the Davis Collection was purchased and arranged in the Reuben Brown House in 1886. The next year, the moving spirits in this shrewdly planned but unselfish undertaking incorporated the Concord Antiquarian Society.

One of the first presidents of the new organization, commenting on the acquisition of the Davis Collection, observed, "It furnishes a nucleus around which in the future will gather

many interesting articles that will whisper of the Past, and become rarer and more valuable with years." This early officer of the Society prophesied even more accurately than perhaps he could dream at the date he wrote. By 1930, the collection of objects belonging to the Society had become of such priceless value and extent that it was no longer wise to expose it to the hazards of ordinary protection in the Reuben Brown House. A new fireproof house of suitable design was erected for the rich inheritance of heirlooms, which are now mainly arranged and exhibited in 16 or more period rooms covering the evolution of domestic interiors from about 1660 down to 1840.

The building of the Antiquarian Society, which was put up at a fork in the Lexington road a few hundred feet beyond the old Reuben Brown House, contains a number of objects of such historical importance that they should be briefly mentioned here. Particularly notable is one of the signal lanterns hung in the steeple of the Old North Church. This curio was bought by Captain David Brown, in command of one of the Concord companies of Minute Men in 1775, from the sexton of the historic Boston edifice in 1782. The sword of Colonel James Barrett of the Provincial Militia is another valuable relic, as is the musket of one of the two British soldiers killed at the North Bridge. Emerson's study, an exhibit of unusual interest, was moved intact from the great man's home across the street soon after the new fireproof building was completed. It seems assured of permanent survival in its new place of repose.

Meanwhile, the home of Reuben Brown, winding up a cycle of particular note in its existence, became once again

a place of habitation for a citizen of the town. Its fortune illustrates a circumstance seldom encountered by groups interested in historical preservation today - that of an historic house being surpassed and outgrown by the abundance and quality of its collections and furnishings.

The house is but one of a dozen or more structures along the route of the "American Mile" that are of surpassing interest because of their association with the opening of the Revolution, later 19th century literary figures, or simply because they are old homes that contribute to an inviting atmosphere reminiscent of a way of life that is pursued no more. The places of great literary interest, including Emerson's Home, Hawthorne's Wayside Inn and Bronson and Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, have long been open to the public.

Any attempt to put more of the buildings that border on the "American Mile" on exhibition would probably be impractical and prove to be excessive both from the viewpoint of the town and visitors. The aged structures that provide most of the setting for this important stretch, however, should be maintained and protected for all time against the whims of an absent or immature taste and physical growth or change that may be deliberately unsympathetic or merely the outcome of ignorance about the past. A step in the right direction will be taken when the town adopts historic districts legislation of the type already in force at Lexington and on Nantucket. The act that provides protective measures for the historic structures and sites of Lexington has already been mentioned, and the text of the legislation outlining

the areas protected by it has been added to this report as Appendix D.

Colonel James Barrett House and Farm

Some of the finest land under tillage in Concord today is on the farm of 100 acres settled about 1660 by the ancestors of Colonel James Barrett, senior officer in the Middlesex Militia to answer the alarm on the 19th of April, 1775. The farm, which was the final objective of the British march, lies on the north bank of the Assabet River about two miles beyond the North Bridge and not quite so far from the point where the Assabet and Sudbury join to form the Concord River.

The importance of the Barrett family in the vicinity in Colonial times is demonstrated by the fact that the surviving Barrett House, built about 1725 to 1750, stands beside an old wagon way that is still called Barrett's Mill Road. The site of the ancient mill is yet in evidence beside a stream crossing the modern highway about half a mile before reaching the house. The original barn, sheds and farmyard the companies of British light infantry searched for arms and ammunition are now gone. But the house, including the attic where musket balls and flints were successfully hidden in barrels filled with feathers, remains intact and is maintained in better condition than it was before the present owner, who operates a truck farm, purchased the property in 1904. The acreage under cultivation has been added to and the place as a whole now embraces nearly 200 acres. Included on the present farm are the same woods in Spruce Hollow

beyond the field in back of the house that received kegs of powder and other stores it was so essential to conceal from the enemy.

Besides some of the outlying buildings, the stone walls which show up in early photographs as a picturesque part of the historic setting are also entirely missing. It is an oral tradition that no rocks were to be found on the alluvial formations of the fertile river bottom land. The Barrett pioneers, nonetheless, in true Yankee fashion insisted on having stone walls and by ox team carted the material to make them from the neighboring town of Acton.

The two-story house is of the typical central chimney style, with a three-story wing at the west end known as a jutby, presumably added after the Revolution. The interior woodwork around the central chimney has lost none of its 18th century character as the result of subsequent painting. The stairway, of three flights to a story, rises in its original manner in front of the chimney. The front room to the right of the chimney on the first floor was Colonel Barrett's "Muster Room," where he conferred with fellow officers and examined recruits to augment the forces of the Militia. The last member of the Barrett line was still living in the old house when the current proprietor first became familiar with it over half a century ago.

The prospect of the family of the present owner continuing to operate the place for large-scale vegetable gardening and field crops is promising, despite the fact that new

dwellings are beginning to appear around its border. The most surprising thing about the house and site is the fact that they are not marked nor identified in any way to call attention to their historical significance. The farm and house were apparently so far out in the country in 1885 that a committee then appointed by the town on the occasion of its 250th anniversary to erect historical tablets did not consider them accessible to visitors. Seven tablets relating to the Colonial and Revolutionary history of Concord, however, were erected elsewhere in the town, on boulders and in stone walls.

The Barrett Farm, of course, is much more easily reached today than it was in 1885. A hard-surfaced highway passes the house. Proper steps, therefore, to reveal its identity and importance should be taken at the first opportunity. The place was still a part of American history in the literature and school books of half a century ago. It is now time to rectify the neglect and oblivion that have crept over this farthest reach of the British march into the country on the opening day of the Revolution by the erection of a suitable marker that will bear a distinct relationship to other markers needed along the entire route traversed by the Redcoats.

North Bridge

The river crossings the commander of the British expeditionary force was especially anxious to secure were in opposite directions from Concord's public square. They were the North Bridge and the South Bridge. The North Bridge, a half mile out

Monument Street beyond the square, is foremost not only among Concord's historic sites but those of the entire Nation. It is the location, moreover, of what is perhaps the country's most familiar piece of sculpture in bronze and virtually its universal symbol of patriotism - the renowned Minute Man Statue, first shown as a small plaster model in 1873 by Daniel Chester French, a 23-year old resident of the town, and unveiled two years later at the centennial celebration of the epochal fight at the bridge.

A crowd of 10,000, including President Grant and other important officials of the United States, were present on the 19th of April, 1875, when the statue and a new bridge to reach it across the Concord River were properly introduced to the public in elaborate ceremonies. The statue was received at once with enthusiastic approval and its popularity and fame have grown ever since. A cut of it is known to almost every American today as a reassuring pledge of the Nation's fidelity to its financial obligations, the inspiring figure of the young and earnest Minute Man appearing on all printed matter relating to sales of Government bonds during World War II and subsequent thereto.

In modeling the statue, French achieved a pleasant blending of reality and idealism in which the sculptor's technical skill in depicting a living man is delicately combined with a poetic feeling that perfectly personifies the American Patriot and expresses the finest spiritual quality of our democracy. The great merit of the statue was readily grasped by the general public as well as cultivated critics

and accomplished craftsmen. An observant Concord clergyman, writing a sermon on the subject some years later, in a few well chosen words effectively states the essence of its timeless and wide appeal:

> "The Minute Man speaks not to Americans only, but he speaks to the whole race of men in all times and all places. He stands there as the universal embodiment of human freedom. He represents the everlasting protest of mankind against tyranny and oppression."

The dedication of the Minute Man Statue in 1875 initiated the modern existence of the North Bridge as an historic site and brought it before the public eye as it never had been before. Eighteen years after the fight, use of the crossing was abandoned as new bridges to give access to the west bank of the river were built at other locations both upstream and down. The road leading into the North Bridge from the present Monument Street was no longer needed and upon the petition of the Reverend Ezra Ripley, who resided in the adjoining Old Manse, it was closed off and became a part of his cow pasture.

The Reverend Ripley lived at the Old Manse from the time he married the Reverend William Emerson's widow in 1778 until his death in 1841. Over the years, he attained a more or less proprietary interest in the story of the fight and came to regard himself as an authority, publishing a valuable though strongly biased pamphlet on the subject in 1827. He was also very conscious of the fact that he had an important parcel of historic ground in his charge and was fond of talking about it to visitors who called at the Old Manse. If the subject was not introduced in the course of ordinary conversation, the

clergyman is reputed to have resorted to a device that never failed to draw attention to it. This consisted of summoning another member of the family into his presence and issuing an order, loud enough to be clearly heard and understood by the caller, to turn the cow into the battlefield.

The Concord River is a sluggish stream and in the spring of the year the slowly moving flood waters spread out over the low-lying meadows beside it, exerting a pressure in the stream bed that is often greater than that in steeper and more rapidly falling bodies of water. The maintenance of bridges under such conditions has always been a problem and the rude wooden structures of yesteryear were no exception. The simple spans the townsmen of Concord began to throw up 300 years ago and continued to build until the days of modern engineering and the use of materials more durable than wood were not infrequent casualties. One bridge after another followed its predecessor and was erected with the certainty that it would eventually be pried loose from its abutments and underpinning by flood waters and washed away.

The bridge that served as the battleground between the Minute Men and the Regulars survived without mishap until the way to it was abandoned in 1793. It was then considered advisable to prevent any continued attempt to use it by tearing it down. From the second stanza of Emerson's "Concord Hymn," written for the dedication of the first battle monument erected on the east bank of the stream in 1836, a somewhat misleading impression of its passing is given that may be generously accepted as poetic license. Like the enemies who met around it

on the fateful April morning, the poet has the bridge disappear, but suggests it was done by the hand of nature instead of man:

> "The foe long since in silence slept;
> Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
> And Time the ruined bridge has swept
> Down the dark stream which seaward creeps."

After the bridge was gone, the site also "in silence slept," its two old abutments standing empty and only an occasional pilgrim now and then searching out the place where the initial blow for civil freedom was struck.

The approach of the fiftieth anniversary of the great events which marked the beginning of the War of the Revolution first aroused thoughts about putting up a permanent memorial at Concord. The general idea of erecting monuments worthy of those patriots "who boldly commenced and triumphantly achieved our national Independence" seems to have originated among a small group of prominent men in Boston, including such famous Americans as Daniel Webster, Edward Everett and Joseph Story, who in 1823 organized the Bunker Hill Monument Association. The point of view of the men who banded together for this lofty purpose is expressed by the committee which, in their behalf, petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature for passage of an act to incorporate the Association. In their petition, the committee explained their cause as follows:

> "Emerging from the war for Independence, we have advanced in the routine of national glory with a rapidity unprecedented in the annals of empires; but, during our cheering progress in agriculture, manufactures, commerce, literature, science and the arts, we appear not to have been sufficiently mindful of the infinite

> obligations we are under to those who braved the hardships, privations, and dangers of the conflict, for the boasted privileges we enjoy. No monument designates the ever-memorable heights of Charlestown, or Saratoga, the plains of Trenton, Monmouth, or Yorktown."

The next year, the Association prepared an address, appealing for subscription of funds, that was sent to the selectmen of every town in Massachusetts. Along with a plan to raise $75,000 to purchase the land in Charlestown where the Battle of Bunker Hill had been fought on June 17, 1775, and to build there the "GRANDEST MONUMENT IN THE WORLD," the Association also proposed "to erect a suitable monument at Concord, where the first conflict was had, bearing proper inscriptions to commemorate the glorious spirit of independence which manifested itself there, and the names of the men who fell there, and whose memory should be for ever cherished and honored."

The Association felt that it was important to lay the cornerstones of the monuments proposed for Concord and Bunker Hill on the occasion of the semi-centennial anniversaries coming up at both places in 1825. In order to encourage this step being taken in proper time, the Association promised to make a grant of $500 for the monument at Concord. Edward Everett, the renowned orator and Secretary to the Standing Committee of the Association, who had also just been chosen a representative to the 19th Congress, furthermore, agreed to assist in making the proposed celebration a success by attending and delivering the principal address.

The cornerstone was laid as planned on the 19th of April, 1825, in ceremonies according to the Masonic form by the local Corinthian Lodge, with no less than 60 veterans of the

"Concord Fight" in attendance, "distinguished by badges commemorative of the event." The cornerstone, however, was not placed where the epoch-making encounter had occurred half a century before, but by vote of the town "near the town pump" on the public square, nearly half a mile away from the North Bridge.

It was to be expected that the erection of a monument so far removed from where the historic action had taken place would be protested and a later historian of the Corinthian Lodge bears this out. He records, "A large number of the citizens of Concord disapproved of the selection of the site for the monument" and goes on to tell what they did about it. During the following winter, "a sham monument about twenty feet high, was erected in the night time - of empty casks and boards - over the foundation of the monument" or cornerstone. It bore the following inscription:

> "This monument is erected here to commemorate the battle which took place at the North Bridge."

The next evening the hastily contrived structure was put to the torch and the fire produced such an intense heat that the cornerstone was ruined beyond repair. The town had received the contribution of $500 promised by the Bunker Hill Monument Association and placed it in the hands of three trustees, but disagreement on the question of locating the monument apparently remained so rife that nothing further was done about it until the next decade.

Finally, in 1834, the Reverend Ezra Ripley, approaching the final years of a long and useful life, offered some pro-

posals that proved to be gratifying and acceptable to the town. They were put on record as follows:

> "That a monument be erected near the site of the ancient bridge (North Bridge), and Dr. Ripley offers to give for that purpose a piece of land eighty feet wide measuring from the wall southerly, and from a point ninety feet easterly of the great elm tree to the middle of the river, with a passage way leading to said piece of land from the county road thirty feet wide within the walls, on conditions that the grounds be fenced with a good stone wall, and that a monument be erected within three years from the fourth day of July next; and further, that a water course be made and kept open near the road at the entrance of the passage way."

In accordance with this offer, Dr. Ripley one year later gave back to the town some of the land he had gained as pasture for his cattle in 1793. When construction of the monument went forward in 1836 and the parcel of ground was found to be too narrow to accommodate the monument and to permit an adequately spacious approach to it, he enlarged his gift of land by immediately drawing up a supplemental deed that provided for a passage way with a minimum width of 40 feet clear of the walls.

The so-called Concord Monument that was then erected was designed by Solomon Willard, who had achieved fame as the architect of the great but as yet uncompleted Bunker Hill Monument. In comparison with the latter, which was to rise to a height of 220 feet, the Concord project was a modest one, the granite monument in the shape of an obelisk, 25 feet high, consisting of but four pieces cut from a boulder found in the woods of the neighboring town of Westford. A slab of white Italian marble was inserted on the east face of the plain shaft, with the following inscription attributed to the Reverend Ripley:

Here
On the 19th of April
1775,
was made
the first forcible resistance
to British aggression.
On the opposite Bank
Stood the American Militia.
Here stood the invading Army,
And on this spot
The first of the enemy fell
In the War of that Revolution
which gave
Independence
To these United States.

In gratitude to God,
And
In the love of Freedom
This Monument
was erected
A.D. 1836.

The monument was finished and enclosed by an iron fence, and the land fenced by a stone wall as required by Dr. Ripley prior to July 4, 1837, the date he had set for the expiration of his proposals. On that day, the citizens of Concord and surrounding towns held suitable exercises to dedicate the new monument. A most notable part of the ceremonies from our perspective today was the singing to the tune of "Old Hundred" of Emerson's famous "Concord Hymn," written specifically for the occasion.

Expenditures of $882.61 had been incurred for the work on the monument and walls, which was done through a building committee of seven members appointed by the town. The grant of $500 from the Bunker Hill Monument Association had grown while being held in trust to $697.36, and subscriptions from twenty inhabitants of the town, including members of the

building committee, netted $185.25 to cover the total cost of the undertaking.

The old road or passage way leading down to the new monument beside the river presented rather a bleak and barren appearance devoid as it was of any quantity of trees or other shade. The committee, therefore, made an appeal for a donation of trees to be placed in double rows on either side of the old road in order to form a pleasant avenue to the monument. The plea of the committee was not in vain, for on the 63rd anniversary of the fight in 1838 it is reported that "upwards of 200 trees were brought in and planted on that day, consisting of elm, buttonwood, maple, white oak, larch, fir, pine, ash, hickory and horn beam." Thus was an initial attempt at formal monumentation carried out, more acceptably perhaps than might have been the case some years later.

The Concord Monument definitely marked the position the British troops under Captain Laurie had taken in the fight and where some of them had become victims of the volleys of musket balls poured down by the Minute Men. Back in 1825, the question of laying the cornerstone at the bridge or in the public square had been bitterly disputed. Whether the monument should be on the east or west bank of the river now became a matter for controversy. Some citizens of the town felt strongly that the monument should have been erected where the Minute Men rather than the British had fallen. The absence of any bridge to reach the farther side of the stream whence the Minute Men had advanced, however, had posed a practical problem. When the

monument was finally built, the issue had been resolved with the least trouble by accepting Dr. Ripley's donation of land on the same side of the river as the road by which the monument would be mainly approached.

The fact that the monument had in the end been placed at the British position on the east bank of the river and no stone designated the spot on the other side, where Major Buttrick had given the order to fire and Captain Isaac Davis and Abner Hosmer of the Acton Minute Men had been killed, was a source of deep chagrin and dissatisfaction to one of Concord's best known inhabitants and personalities. Ebenezer Hubbard, who lived in the house where his grandfather had entertained John Hancock and other members of the Provincial Congress that had paved the way to Revolution, was sorely distressed and was determined to correct the sad state of affairs. As a child, he had seen the battle bridge and was acquainted with some of the participants in the fight. The fulfillment of his desire to have the bridge renewed and the site marked where the patriots had first directed their fire upon the enemy became so important to him that when he passed on in 1870 he left in his will the sum of $1,000 "towards building a monument ... on the opposite side of the river from the present monument." Before his death, Hubbard also placed in the hands of the town treasurer a fund of $600 to be used for erecting a bridge on the site of the old one.

A committee to consider action on Hubbard's bequest was appointed at a town meeting in 1872. A year later, this committee recommended that the town should accept the gift of

its patriotic benefactor and "procure a statue of a Continental Minute-man, cut in granite, and erect it on a proper foundation, on the American side of the river" with the opening stanza, quoted below, from Emerson's immortal poem "enduringly engraven for an inscription on the base" -

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world."

It was also recommended by the committee "that a suitable bridge be constructed to give access to the spot," and, finally, that the work on both the statue and bridge "be completed and dedicated on the one hundreth anniversary of the day."

The plans of the committee, which before it was through included Emerson among its members, were carried out with only slight deviations from its original recommendations. Daniel Chester French, a talented young citizen of the community, who was then training in Boston for his pre-eminent career as a sculptor, sought the commission for the statue. The meaning and significance of the design he went to work on and fashioned have already been discussed. The model, only 27 inches high, was that of the now famous figure and likeness of a typical Minute Man of 1775 that stands at the farther side of the bridge - a young farmer, with musket in hand, leaving his plow to answer the alarm of the British march.

Complete confidence in the ability of the inexperienced young sculptor was expressed at a town meeting presided over by Emerson in November, 1873, when his model was accepted without

dissent as the design for the statue. At the meeting, the sum of $500 was also appropriated toward the expense of having French make a full-sized model. As a workshop for this job, French rented a room on the third floor of the Studio Building at the corner of Tremont and Bromfield Streets in Boston and during the following winter turned out the 7-foot figure in clay from which the well-known statue in bronze was to be cast.

Though the initial plan of the committee had called for a granite statue as well as a granite base to bear the familiar inscription by Emerson in verse, bronze was finally selected as the material most suitable for French's design and most durable for the climate. The importance with which the undertaking was now regarded was appropriately demonstrated by bringing the Nation into the picture and making it one of the contributors and participants. Through legislation introduced by E. Rockwood Hoar, a prominent citizen of the town and a member of the 43rd Congress, an act was passed and approved April 22, 1874, authorizing the Secretary of War "to deliver to the municipal authorities of Concord, Massachusetts, ten pieces of condemned brass cannon, to be used in the erection of a monument at the Old North Bridge, to commemorate the first repulse of the troops of Great Britain in the war of the Revolution, on the nineteenth day of April, seventeen hundred and seventy-five." The cannon were sent soon afterwards to the factory at Chicopee, Massachusetts, where the statue was cast during the following autumn and winter.

While final plans for modeling and producing the bronze statue were being worked out, preparations progressed for the

centennial anniversary and dedication at the bridge. Stedman Buttrick, grandson of Major John Buttrick, who had ordered the Militia to fire on the British, cooperated in the project to the extent of donating to the town a quarter of an acre of ancestral ground beside the old abutment on the west bank of the stream "for the purpose of erecting a Monument there, and for no other purpose, and on condition that the grantee shall make and forever maintain a fence around the same, and that a bridge shall be constructed across the river, from the easterly side, to pass to the above premises, and without any right of way over my land."

It was now certain that a bridge spanning the river would have to be built in order to provide access to the spot chosen for the Minute Man Statue. The task of constructing the bridge, consequently, went forward during the summer and autumn of 1874. An unusual opportunity was provided the committee to engage seriously in restoration work in an era in which highly stylized and formal monumentation was the prevailing pattern and objective in dealing with the great places of history. The committee, in fact, saw the possibility of building a replica of the old battle bridge "in its essential features" on the basis of pictorial evidence furnished by the wood engraving of Amos Doolittle and paintings by Ralph Earl, two artists in the Connecticut Militia, who from Cambridge visited the scene of the fight several weeks after it occurred and drew sketches.

The committee found in Doolittle's and Earl's work "that faithfulness of detail which characterizes most untutored art," but in the end they could not rise above the affected

elegance in fashion at the time and even on a "rude bridge," some 100 feet long, slightly arched and supported by half a dozen rows of piles, had to attach some fripperies that would put the stamp of their own age upon it. A member of the committee, the report of the centennial celebration reveals, "generously undertook to add some decoration to the rigid simplicity of the old model" and procured a plan from a Boston architect to suit the ornate taste of the day. The report describes as follows the embellishments, that no doubt were considered quite an improvement artistically over the Doolittle and Earl delineations of the original battle bridge:

> "the place of the rough railing of 'followers' of the old bridge was supplied by a paling of graceful pattern, made of cedars with the bark on; and two rustic half-arbors were placed in the middle of the bridge, projecting over the water, with seats where pilgrims might sit and watch the quiet river brimming its meadows."

It was regrettable that the faithful work and historical accuracy of the sculptor of the Minute Man Statue did not prevail also in constructing the new bridge for the centennial. Like the taste of the age it represented, however, the bridge was not destined to last forever and was washed away by a flood in 1888. Its successor, which was put up soon after, was a sturdier structure and endured for twenty years. This time the builders aimed not to have their work undone so readily and gave more size and strength to the structural timbers. The dainty aspect of cedar palings and rustic arbors or canopies on the centennial bridge was now missing as heavy piles, posts, railings and diagonal props created an effect just the opposite.

Despite the noble effort to achieve permanence, the bridge of 1888 went out in 1908 and the next year was replaced by a span that the selectmen of the town hoped might be the final solution to the problem of flood waters. The original as depicted in the famous print by Amos Doolittle was followed closely as only the fewest number of structural members essential to hold the structure together was reproduced in concrete and opened as the new pathway across the stream.

The artificial but new and highly popular building material was hardly the thing to represent accurately the "rude bridge" of the heroic forefathers. Though the mistake in using it was eventually recognized and abhorred, the material lived up to its reputation for durability and the concrete bridge remained unimpaired for a long time. No excuse provided sufficient impulse to get rid of it until a structural weakness developed in the great flood that accompanied Hurricane Diane in August, 1955, and the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts agreed to build a replica of suitable materials from funds appropriated to repair flood damage.

A sketch based on a study of the features of the bridge shown in Doolittle's engraving was prepared by a well-known historical architect and used as the source for the engineer's detailed structural drawings. The new bridge was built by a contractor for the Department of Public Works at a cost of approximately $48,000 and dedicated on September 29, 1956. The posts and rails of this most recent of replacements are hand-hewn and the structure as a whole, exclusive of mill-sawn planking and

bolts and nuts to hold the framework supporting the posts outside the rails, is a reasonably good reproduction of the original. It represents a rare if not the sole instance in which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has actively participated in any major reconstruction or restoration work on a site or structure of outstanding significance. Too often, sites or structures of historical importance have been unwittingly or carelessly obliterated or transformed by agencies of the state.

Besides the Concord Monument, the Minute Man Statue and the replica of the battle bridge itself, the North Bridge area is also the burial site of the two British soldiers who fell in the fight but were not carried away by their fleeing comrades. Their grave is beside the stone wall on the left side of the tree-lined lane close to the bridge. For years, the grave was identified only "at head and foot" by "unhewn stone." Finally, "some English citizens of Waltham" were prompted in 1875 to enclose it by stone posts and iron chains and to have a squared block of granite placed on top of the wall with the words "Grave of British Soldiers" inscribed on the exposed face. An anonymous donor gave the present slate tablet to the town in 1910. It was inserted in the wall underneath the old granite block, which now had its inscribed face turned down so it no longer showed. The same words, however, were cut on the new slate slab as a heading for the following lines from a poem James Russell Lowell was inspired to write after a visit to the spot many years before:

"They came three thousand miles, and died,
To keep the Past upon its throne;
Unheard, beyond the ocean tide,
Their English mother made her moan."

Soon after World War I, the British Naval and Military Veterans Association of Massachusetts got interested in erecting a more impressive memorial to their fellow Britons of the earlier conflict and plans were laid to raise $10,000 for a monument, 6-feet high, depicting the Lion and the Eagle in a suitably symbolic manner. The plans, however, never materialized and a site that is too small to receive any more manifestations of monumentation was spared an addition that could not have been appropriately absorbed. The grace and simplicity of the slate tablet and Lowell's verses seem right for the place. Never again should occasion arise to dispute their preservation and survival as part of the battle site.

The number of visitors at the North Bridge increased rapidly in the decade that followed World War I, especially those from a distance who arrived by sight-seeing buses and private automobiles. As late as 1926, an employee of the Commission, who was then a boy of high school age, recollects the congestion of motor vehicles and lack of adequate space for them around the Concord Monument at the eastern abutment of the bridge as a bus he was on tried to make a turn around the granite shaft.

The problem was shortly recognized as the Old North Bridge Protective Association, a civic-minded group made up of a few keenly interested citizens, came momentarily into existence to study it and to work out an arrangement that would take care

of the objectionable vehicular traffic and keep it out of the historic site. Some thought was given to acquiring the house lot and parcel of ground that lie north of the lane approaching the bridge and placing a parking area in that location. Plans for constructing the new fireproof museum building of the Concord Antiquarian Society were also first projected about that time and a site for it adjacent to the proposed parking area was shown on a layout prepared for the Protective Association. In the end, however, the property was not acquired and the plan was abandoned as the so-called Antiquarian House of the Society was erected on Lexington Road not far from the Reuben Brown House it then occupied.

The problem was finally resolved in 1929 as the triangular plot of ground on the east side of Monument Street, directly opposite the entrance to the lane or avenue that leads down to the bridge, was purchased by the Town of Concord. The development of the present parking area soon after provided sufficient space for automobiles and buses, and it was possible henceforth to close the approach to the bridge to all vehicular traffic.

The construction of an ample parking space for visitors took care of an immediate and pressing problem, yet it did not fulfill all of the needs of the North Bridge area. The latter is presented to the American people today with neither the sufficiency in scope nor degree of excellence that is commensurate with its place in the Nation's history. A fundamental deficiency is that of size. The historic site barely covers the immediate

battleground at the bridge and is even smaller than its parking area.

It is particularly inadequate from the standpoint of the visitor who is interested in comprehending the relationship of events on the historic day. The occasion for seizure of the bridge by the British light infantry in the first place was to protect the crossing it was essential for the companies to use that marched on to Colonel Barrett's farm and to prevent the movement of any force of patriots into the town while it was being occupied and searched by Colonel Smith's grenadiers.

Far from conveying any impression of being used for such strategic purposes, the bridge, in the physical landscape that surrounds it today, appears erroneously to mark the terminal point of the British march. The path across the bridge ends abruptly at the Minute Man Statue and a heavy screen of shrubbery behind it bars any outlook on the low-lying and spring-flooded riverside meadow, where the old road once passed over a causeway until it reached higher ground and then swung upstream beside the river toward the Barrett Farm. The shrubbery also conceals the brow of Punkatasset Hill, where the Minute Men had their muster field and assembled before descending on the Redcoats at the bridge. On the opposite side of the river, moreover, the wooded slope of Ripley Hill that was occupied by part of the American force both before and after the fight at the bridge lies unrecognized and forgotten.

It is the considered opinion of the Commission that the present historic site at the North Bridge should be expanded

at its borders to include the properties named above. In addition to these properties that have a direct bearing and relationship to the fight and, furthermore, are needed to improve interpretation of the great event in the public interest, sufficient buffer strips should also be either purchased or assured permanent protection by other means in order to forestall residential development or other use that would further mar the existing historical scene. The enlarged boundaries of an adequate historical area for the North Bridge as a whole, including buffer as well as strips of historical significance, are shown as part of a plan relating to the Battle Road that accompanies this report. They are also covered in a more general way in the Commission's recommendations.

The North Bridge area is certain to be visited by an increasing number of Americans and foreign travelers in the years that lie ahead. The famous Minute Man Statue is a constant source of inspiration and interest to thousands of citizens, and, since the new replica of the battle bridge was completed last year, the upsurge of visitors has been noticeable. No attendance records have been kept as no guides nor other attendants are provided at the site by the town. A conservative estimate of visitation, however, is 150,000 persons annually, and it is likely that an actual count might show a figure of 250,000. A spot check made at the bridge by an employee of the Commission over the course of a half-hour in the afternoon of a day at mid-week this past summer revealed that no less than 230 people arrived at the historic site.

Such a concentration of visitors points to the crying need for better interpretive facilities and maintenance than are now provided. Exclusive of a small bronze marker with a narrative text that is hard to read and can be of service to only a few people at a time, informative devices to help the public understand what it sees are conspicuous by their absence. The inscriptions on the monuments and tablets, indeed, are poetic and inspirational, yet in themselves require interpretation that is not furnished.

The answer to the problem of explaining the site and its story, the Commission feels, lies in the provision of uniformed attendants, who during the summer months of travel at least would be kept continually busy providing the forms of interpretive service that the American people have come to associate with the National Park System. A plausible way to improve the situation in this regard would be to place responsibility for the interpretation of the existing area under the National Park Service, irrespective of whether it is ever actually incorporated in a projected national historical park as property of the United States or title to it is retained by the Town of Concord. In the latter case, the need could be met through the negotiation of a cooperative agreement in accordance with Section 2 (e) of the Historic Sites Act approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). The text of this Act is added to this report as Appendix E.

Hand in hand with better interpretation, better maintenance of the immediate surroundings of the interesting and important features of the North Bridge area should be achieved. The wear

and tear on shrubs and other planting, and on roads, pathways, fences and other structures under such a heavy load of public use are severe. Closer surveillance and more intensive care than are now provided are required in particular if the site is to continue to be one in which the entire Nation can take pride. This end, specifically with reference to maintenance, the Commission believes might also be worked out by recourse to an arrangement similar to that suggested in the preceding paragraph for improving interpretation.

South Bridge

Concord's South Bridge, a mile from the public square, and its immediate environs are now almost completely overlooked as being associated with the 19th of April, 1775. The modern bridge of concrete that carries the present state highway, Route No. 62, across the river, indeed, possesses little to remind the traveler of conditions at the time the company of British light infantry under Captain Munday Pole paid a visit there in order to block passage into the town and to search the neighborhood for military stores. Neither the existing bridge, which was erected in 1909, nor any of the three historic homes nearby that the Redcoats entered are marked or otherwise recognized today.

The most significant of the houses to which the troops gained access during their stay of an hour and a half at the bridge was that of Joseph Hosmer, Adjutant to the Concord Militia. It was Hosmer who put the decisive question in the conference of officers that preceded the fight at the North Bridge - "Will you let them burn the town down?" Hosmer was a fine cabinetmaker

and he had a fine home. The latter survives today in a splendid state of preservation thanks to the care and interest of its present owner, who has lived in it for more than thirty years.

The Regulars sent to search Hosmer's house were met at the door by Mrs. Hosmer. She led them from room to room as they conducted their investigation until she paused before a chamber door beyond which she said was a sick woman. The story goes that the soldiers were satisfied to peer into the room careful not to disturb the woman who lay stretched out on a featherbed well filled with articles of a warlike nature they had been ordered to seek.

Besides its association with the British search, the house has real charm and historical value as the home of Joseph Hosmer, a man of affairs and a craftsman of unusual talents. Being a cabinetmaker, he had a flair for the convenient and skillful arrangement of cupboards and panel work, both of which are beautifully illustrated by the workmanship in his parlor and office. The latter occupies the ground floor of a unique little wing at the east end of the main house and by itself comprises almost a separate miniature dwelling. It has a curious roof, with a hip from the top and a gambrel gable.

This part of the house may go back to the early 1700's if not before, while the squarely built main house with handsome corner pilasters dates from 1758. A number of features in the latter, such as the enormous central chimney with eight fireplaces, a cellar under only a part of the house, low ceilings and the presence of handsomely chamfered summer beams in the parlor and a chamber, suggest a house of earlier origin or at

least features salvaged from one. At any rate, Hosmer is credited with building the main house with his own hands at the age of 23 in preparation for his marriage, which took place two years later.

Adjutant Hosmer's commodious domicile stands on the north side of Main Street, just beyond the South Bridge and a sharp turn through a railroad overpass. Well back from the road, on the opposite side, is the house where Amos Wood resided in 1775. The addition of a modern porch across the front and other changes on the outside have robbed the house of most of its pre-Revolutionary character. Nevertheless, it is a house the British visited and where they behaved themselves in exemplary fashion. They were fed by Amos Wood's household and gave each of the ladies a guinea for their trouble. Here again the soldiers were outwitted in their quest for military supplies, a gallant officer denying himself and his men access to a locked but well stocked chamber in the belief that women were hiding there.

The house where Ephraim Wood lived on the present Wood Street has lost less of its original exterior form and can be identified without difficulty. Despite the addition of large wings at either side and in the rear, the main house is readily recognized as an 18th century style of structure very common to New England - clapboarded, two stories high and with a large central chimney. The search of this house was performed without any notable incidents. Like Amos Wood and Joseph Hosmer, Ephraim Wood was not at home when the British arrived. A Concord historian some years later records the fact that Ephraim was a

very strong man and was busy moving powder. Carrying a keg of it on his back, he was headed toward the South Bridge when he spotted the British light infantry and escaped by turning down the river and taking a boat to cross to the other side.

Both of the Wood houses and the home of Joseph Hosmer as well as the site of the South Bridge of 1775 merit inclusion among the sites and structures that should be pointed out by a uniform system of markers calling attention to the entire route of the British march and the succession of incidents on the historic day.

The South Bridge has as long a history as its more famous counterpart at the opposite end of the town. Damaging floods made periodic replacements of the early wooden spans necessary here as at the North Bridge. Continued use of this crossing on a main highway during the last century, however, was the occasion for building a more permanent structure of stone, with gracefully proportioned arches, which lasted until the innovation of concrete made its removal inevitable almost fifty years ago. The stone bridge took the place of a wooden structure - the successor or, perhaps, the same one from which Captain Pole's men ripped up the planks before hurrying back to the center of town on hearing the sound of musketry at the North Bridge.

Nashawtuc Hill, known as Lee's Hill in 1775, which is approached today from the South Bridge over Wood Street, is part of the historic South Bridge area. No particular spots on this elevation, however, can be connected now with the British soldiers who visited it for observation purposes and no markers nor other form of treatment for it are recommended. The growth

of shade trees and the building of fine residences on and around the hill during both the last and the present centuries have without question much altered its appearance of Revolutionary days.

Hunt-Hosmer House

Two interesting Colonial dwellings that stood in the same dooryard when the British infantry under Captain Parsons marched by on the way to Colonel Barrett's farm were those associated with the Hunt and Winthrop families. The structures referred to in the chronological narrative as the Hunt-Hosmer House and the Governor John Winthrop House were a quarter of a mile or so beyond the crossing at the North Bridge. Of the two, the Hunt-Hosmer House, with its ancient barn, remains today just off the road in a shady nook that abruptly transports one from the present into the past.

The houses were built on a farm that originally contained 1200 acres when granted in 1638 to Governor John Winthrop, the venerated founder of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. The estate was eventually divided by Adam Winthrop, the Governor's grandson, and the parcel which contains the homestead where the two dwellings stood side by side in 1775 was purchased by John Hunt in 1703. The latter probably erected the main part of the two-story house, with a lean-to at the east side, that survives today, but it is sometimes dated as early as 1680. If this date is correct, the structure was built during the time the second and third generations of the Winthrops were in possession of the property. A wing at the west side is perceptibly of later origin and was

definitely not put up until the period of ownership that began with the Hunts. The last member of this family to occupy the house more than a century ago was Captain Humphrey Hunt.

Edmund Hosmer, a farmer, philosopher and friend of Emerson and Thoreau, bought the place in 1852 and tilled its fertile acres beside the river until his death in 1881. The farm was a favorite haunt of both Emerson and Thoreau and a part of rural Concord that furnished Emerson with thoughts about country men and country living that he expresses in his poem "Hamatreaya" -

> "Bulkeley, Hunt, Willard, Hosmer, Merriam, Flint,
> Possessed the land which rendered to their toil
> Hay, corn, roots, hemp, flax, apples, wool and wood.
> Each of these landlords walked amidst his farm,
> Saying, 'T'is mine, my children's, and my name's."

The unpainted house and barn, now brown with age but tenderly preserved by their current owner, are sheltered in the summer from rapidly passing vehicles on the highway in front of them by a luxuriant cover of greenery. They should be components of any enlarged area to receive greater protection in the historic scene beside the Concord River and, in their turn, they should not be overlooked as Colonial survivals that were a part of the setting on the 19th of April, 1775.

Governor John Winthrop House

Governor John Winthrop, the staunch leader of the Puritan migration from Old England, had a taste for natural beauty as well as material gain, and he undoubtedly took pleasure in developing the portions of the large estate he acquired as grants in the back

country of his New England paradise. By 1641, he had built a house on the Concord farm of 1200 acres he had been granted three years before, but it is improbable that his activity in public life and business ventures spared him much time for visits to that part of his domain before he passed on in 1649. The house he at least began, however, endured long enough to be visually recorded in the pioneering days of photography. An account of its reduction was also confided in the diary of Henry David Thoreau, the shrewd observer and romantic interpreter of nature and the out-of-doors.

The house came to Edmund Hosmer, the farmer friend of Emerson and Thoreau, with his purchase of the farm and later dwelling of the Hunt family, that have been treated above under the title of the Hunt-Hosmer House. Hosmer apparently had no use for the old Winthrop House and, as it was probably out of repair, finally got the notion to tear it down. On March 11, 1859, Thoreau saw the work of its demolition drawing to a close and made the following entry in his journal describing what he had seen:

> "I go to get one more sight of the old house which Hosmer is pulling down, but I am too late to see much of it. The chimney is gone and little more than the oblong square frame stands. E. Hosmer and Nathan Hosmer are employed taking it down. The latter draws all the nails, however crooked, and puts them in his pocket, for, being wrought ones, he says it is worth the while.
>
> It appears plainly, now that the frame is laid bare, that the eastern two-thirds of the main house is older than the western third, for you can see where the west part has been added on ... All the joists in the old part are hewn; in the newer, sawn. But very extensive repairs had been made in the old part, probably at the same time with the addition. Also the back part had been added on to the new part, merely butted on at one side without tenant or mortise. The peculiar cedar lathes were confined to the old part. The whole has oak sills and pine timbers. The two Hosmers were confident that the chimney was built at the same time with the new part, because, though there

were flues in it from the new part, there was no break in the courses of brick about them. On the chimney was the date 1703 (?), - I think that was it, - and if this was the date of the chimney, it would appear that the old part belonged to the Winthrops, and it may go back to near the settlement of the town. The laths long and slender of white cedar split. In the old part the ends of the timbers were not merely mortised into the posts, but rested on a shoulder...

The fireplace measures twelve feet wide by three deep by four and a half high. The mantel-tree is log, fourteen feet long and some fifteen to sixteen inches square at the ends, and now charred. It would take three men to handle it easily. The timbers of the old part had been cased and the joints plastered over at some time, and, now that they were uncovered, you saw many old memorandums and scores in chalk on them, as 'May ye 4th,' 'Ephraim Brown,' '0-35-4d,' 'oxen ~~111111~~,' so they kept their score or tally, - such as the hatcher and baker sometimes make."

The part of the framework Thoreau calls the "eastern two-thirds" bore the features of solid construction by use of hewn logs that were characteristic of the labor of the earliest pioneers and axemen. This part, among the three broken down by Thoreau into separate units presumably built at different times, was without question the oldest and inevitably dated from the period of Governor John Winthrop.

When the house was photographed in 1858 or before, the whole exterior of the main structure showed the wide overhang between the first and second stories that was typical of New England frontier homes of the 17th century. If Thoreau's memory served him well and the date on the chimney was 1703, he was referring to a specimen of brickwork which doubtless was contributed by the first Hunt rather than the Winthrops. This date would also suggest that Hunt made use of the old structure as well as the less ancient Hunt-Hosmer House still standing behind the site once occupied by the Winthrop House.

As Governor John Winthrop was a figure of outstanding importance in the founding of the English settlements and colonies in the New World, a development that was also a necessary antecedent to the founding of the Nation, it would be very appropriate to mark in a suitable manner the location of the abode that was erected in the Concord wilderness at his direction more than a century and a quarter before his descendants took up arms and severed with finality the ties which had bound them to the motherland. This end should be accomplished without fail if the site of the Winthrop House and its surviving companion, the Hunt-Hosmer House, should become part of a greater area encompassing the North Bridge.

Elisha Jones House

A conspicuous landmark in the North Bridge area is the dwelling opposite the Old Manse that takes its name from its Revolutionary occupant, Elisha Jones, a blacksmith. Jones had declared himself a patriot and had supplies of beef and salt fish in his custody for the Provincial Militia when the British light infantry marched up the road and drank from the well in his dooryard. None of the soldiers entered the house, but Jones was alarmed at the sight of the Redcoats and took his wife and small children down cellar, where they hid among the barrels of beef. When they heard the volleys of muskets at the North Bridge, Mrs. Jones and her young offspring were even more frightened. Her oldest daughter, then four years of age, recalled in later years her tears on returning upstairs and seeing the ghastly spectacle of the wounded Regulars fleeing in pain and disorder from the bridge.

The aspect of the house and its dependencies, it is regrettable to say, has changed since 1775. Curiously enough, the modern improvements that have been most destructive of the ancient building's survival values were effected by a resident who should have been most solicitous for their retention. A distinguished local citizen, who lived there at the turn of the century, was conscious of the house's history and even wrote an account of it. Yet the scope of his historical interest in that day and age did not include historical preservation or restoration. It now seems a bit strange in a period marked by somewhat more enlightenment in this field of endeavor to read of the pride that was taken about 1902 in ripping out the old and irreplaceable in favor of the stylish and new. In a manner forthright if not boastful, the owner-occupant describes what he did to the house:

> "With much labor and expense it was carefully repaired and renovated; a new outside and inside finish put on the building; the old chimneys taken down and replaced by new; the rooms finished in native woods; the small windows enlarged; and Lutheran, long and bay windows, porch and piazza added, and the interior so changed that its former owners would hardly recognize it. The outside retains the lean-to roof on the North, and the general shape of the old house. The barn was moved across the road from where it had long been an eyesore to the Manse, and placed nearly on the site of the blacksmith shop, and the view over the meadows and battleground improved."

The barn that was thus moved to the spot where Elisha Jones' blacksmith shop had stood no longer exists, but its location can be traced from the rather deep foundation wall remaining, that was cut into the side of Ripley Hill to receive it. The well from which the thirsty British troops drank is in the

front yard, but is unused and covered at the surface of the ground by a solid stone slab. The view across the meadows and to the battleground at the North Bridge, which the owner of the house no doubt had half a century ago, has been largely eliminated by the growth of trees and shrubs. Some of them, especially beside the lane leading to the bridge, are evergreens and screen out the year round any vista that was formerly enjoyed from the Jones or Bullet Hole House.

Besides the well, the bullet hole has been saved, despite the fact that over the years and before it was protected by a glass panel curiosity-seekers tried to cut it out and carry it away. The musket ball, fired from the hip of one of the retiring Redcoats in the road, passed through the boarding of the shed adjoining the north side of the house about a yard to the right of the doorway in which Jones was standing. The ball then glanced off an oak joist before going out the back wall of the shed and into the rising ground behind it.

As first erected, the Elisha Jones or Bullet Hole House was one of Concord's earliest. The original grantee of the property, John Smedley, probably arrived before 1640 and built on his land a dwelling of two rooms, with siding of overlapping pitch pine boards and a large chimney laid up at the bottom in stone and clay mortar. His son and namesake, about 1669, added two more rooms to form another half south of the original, with a new entry and stairway in the center. A lean-to at the rear also appeared about this time or during the occupancy of the second John's daughter and her husband,

Ebenezer Hartwell. The property was acquired for £210 by Elisha Jones' grandfather in 1724.

The antiquities that were swept away in the quest for improvements shortly after 1900 cannot be recovered now, but the place, nevertheless, retains the two things that will associate it forever with the British at the North Bridge - the bullet hole and the well. The preservation of these features is doubtless assured, but perception generally of their existence and historical worth is less certain so long as the property remains in private ownership and is not directly consolidated with a larger public area around the North Bridge.

Buttrick House

A good example of one of Concord's better preserved homesteads is the Buttrick House, a little to the north of the muster field on the brow of Punkatasset Hill, where the Minute Men assembled before descending the slope to attack Captain Laurie's companies of light infantry at the river crossing. Next to Colonel Barrett, Major John Buttrick was the officer of highest rank in the Concord Militia and it was he who gave the order to return the British fire at the North Bridge. His home, being close to the muster field, served as a headquarters for local military business and was a convenient rallying point for the men who came to the muster field.

The house occupied by Major Buttrick in 1775 was built in 1712 by Jonathan Buttrick, a member of one of Concord's most numerous families of farmers. The upland and low meadows

beside the river it formerly had a clear view of were for the most part Buttrick property from the beginning of the town. They were included in the grant to William Buttrick, who arrived from England in 1635 and became one of Concord's original settlers. During the last century, the house and the land behind it passed into the hands of the Derbys, another prominent family in the town. In more recent years, however, the Buttrick name has once again become appropriately identified with the place through ownership.

As part of a superbly maintained estate, the Buttrick House has received additions at the side and rear done in good taste and harmonious style. The front retains much of its early if not original appearance. An enclosed entrance porch at the central doorway is probably later than 1775, but a slight overhang in the clapboarding of the pediments at both ends of the main roof is evidence of the age of the old structure and suggests that a similar overhang may once have existed between the first and second stories. The house that survives today is presumably the same basic structure shown with such an overhang in the famous print delineated by Amos Doolittle only a few weeks after the historic 19th of April under the title "Plate III The Engagement at the North Bridge in Concord."

The home is kept more attractively by the present owner than Major Buttrick could ever have imagined in his day. Besides the house in which he lived, Major Buttrick is also properly commemorated in a more formal fashion. At the corner across the street from the house, a stone monument contains a

bronze tablet with a bas-relief figure of the Major holding his musket in hand. The figure is accompanied by a suitable inscription that leaves no doubt as to the incidents which took place nearby and the part played in them by one Minute Man who did not have to go far from his door in order to make history.

Now that the old home is again Buttrick property, it would be appropriate that the continuity with the past, thus revived, go on forever. In view of the unpredictable future, however, and further changes that are inevitable as the result of suburban expansion and development, any plan for eventual and lasting safeguards embracing a larger area at the North Bridge should not exclude this historic property.

Meriam House

A Revolutionary landmark veritably identifying the start of the day's running fight and warfare without reprieve until the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown is the venerable Meriam House at Meriam's Corner, a full mile or more east of the public square in Concord. An inscription cut on a large boulder in the remains of a stone wall that once enclosed the bounds of the Meriam property along both the Lexington and old Bedford roads signifies Meriam's Corner. Removal of most of the wall half a century or more ago left the old house, several hundred feet from the corner, isolated as it never was before from the significant site with which it is so closely associated. The inscribed boulder was one of seven tablets in stone set up in 1885 by direction of the committee formed to carry out an historical marking project as part of the town's 250th anniversary.

The house is one of Concord's most ancient and has a history that goes back almost to the beginning of the town. John Meriam, who was among the initial holders of house lots that ran along the "Strate strete" from the mill pond in the center of town out to Mill Brook, which still flows through the property today, built his house without question before 1660. The most recent owner of the old two-story dwelling, that has a lean-to also two stories high at the rear, claims that evidence on the huge central chimney points to a date of origin not later than 1639. In a new town book of land records begun in 1663, Meriam held not only his house lot of one and one-half acres but 262 acres in the Great Meadows beside it.

Meriam's home lay on the edge of both the village and the Great Meadows, and it became a logical place of refuge at times when raids by the Indians were threatened. It, therefore, is not surprising to find the sturdily constructed old building designated as one of Concord's garrison houses in 1675 during King Philip's War. It was another century, however, before the house was to achieve its greatest significance, when the companies of Militia from Reading, Billerica, Chelmsford and Woburn took shelter in back of it and its stone walls and drew the fateful fire of the British grenadiers that sparked off the continuous struggle that was to lead to the independence of a new Nation.

This truly important house was owned by Meriam descendants until 1871. It then fell gradually into a state of neglect and disrepair until it was purchased about a decade ago

by the present proprietor, who was particularly interested in its aspects of both age and tradition. A few improvements have been added to make it convenient for modern living, especially in the kitchen part of the lean-to and an adjoining shed at the east end. The distinctly early architectural features, however, which give the house its real character of antiquity, such as the chamfered summer beams supporting the first-story ceiling and the great fireplaces on the central chimney, have been saved and treated in such a manner that nearly perfect restoration could be achieved.

The prospect of further change or possible misuse of the Meriam House, Meriam's Corner and the adjacent Mill Brook, which are significant links in the story of the opening day of the Revolutionary War, should be conscientiously avoided. Measures looking in particular toward the preservation of the Meriam House and its surroundings as a part of the Nation's heritage should be initiated without delay. Any subdivision of the land in front of the house for residential or commercial development would be disastrous. The sustained interest and regard of the current owner for his responsibilities of stewardship are anticipated so long as his residence on this tract of historic ground continues, but any change in ownership could mark the beginning of unfortunate developments that should be forestalled before it is too late.

Arlington

The Parish of Menotomy was incorporated as the Town of West Cambridge in 1807. Sixty years later, it was renamed Arlington and it is since that time that the town has filled up both residentially and commercially. Land for the initial plantation was conveyed by the Indian Squaw Sachem to townsmen from Charlestown and Cambridge in 1638. The place was then known as Wenotomie or Menotomy, and also as Charlestown End soon after the first settlement. Menotomy was the name used to the exclusion of all others in later Colonial and Revolutionary times and it long comprised the Second Parish of Cambridge, an identity it maintained until it was set off as West Cambridge.

Jason Russell House

The Revolutionary village of Menotomy and the countryside around it have been ruthlessly altered, especially during the past fifty years. Practically all of the landmarks, in fact, associated with the British retreat that formerly lay east of Lexington, through the present Arlington to Charlestown, are now gone as a result of the gradual and uncompromising outspread of urban population. A notable and fortunate exception is the Jason Russell House near the corner of Massachusetts Avenue on Jason Street just west of the center of Arlington. The house is remarkable not only in its own right, but also because it is one structure out of many that stood in the path of the Redcoats that has not succumbed entirely to the dictates of utility and change.

The old house is a monument both to Arlington's Colonial and Revolutionary past, and no better choice as a subject for historical preservation could have been found by the Arlington Historical Society in 1923. Erected about 1680 by Martha, widow of William Russell, an early inhabitant of the parish, the gray-clapboarded dwelling has real worth as an architectural antiquity

in addition to its unusual interest as the scene of the mass murder of a dozen Revolutionary patriots.

Originally but one-room deep, with a large chimney at one end, the house soon received another half which put the chimney in the center, with a steep and turning staircase in front of it leading to chambers and an attic above. The great chimney fills the center of the attic so completely that separate stairs starting at a common base in the second-floor hall are needed in order to reach the free space on either side of it. An ingenious pair of sliding panels in the second-story ceiling open up to allow access and headroom. Sections of the house added since the Revolution but early enough to show in photographs taken nearly a century ago are a vestibule entrance before the front door and an ell at the rear, which provides the Society with an assembly room and living quarters for a resident caretaker.

When Samuel Adams Drake, a writer of historical guidebooks, called on Mrs. Teel, a granddaughter of Jason Russell, and her son about 1873, the historic farmhouse was still surrounded by the old barn, other farm buildings and a broad expanse of pastures and fields. Twenty-five years later, however, Edwin M. Bacon, another expositor of historical pilgrimages, found conditions that suggested the beginnings of encroaching suburbia. The last Teel and Russell descendant had vacated the house in 1890 and it had been turned about and moved back from the road. The stone tablet beside Massachusetts Avenue, erected about this time, refers to the "Site of the House of Jason Russell." Though the house may have been

considered as good as lost when it was moved, the Arlington Historical Society persevered in recovering it at a later date and it survives today concealed by neighboring residences that have succeeded all too well in transforming the aspect of a Colonial farm into part of a densely-occupied suburb.

The house can probably never be restored to its original location any more than the farmlands and stone walls that gave it a proper setting can be revived. The Arlington Historical Society, through the generosity of the second and third generations of a family with a profound interest in the history of the town, however, plans to remove the large building that hides the Russell home from Massachusetts Avenue and the stone tablet that calls attention to its Revolutionary significance. It is expected that the obstruction will be cleared away within the next year or two.

The cellar in which eight of the Minute Men pursued by the British Regulars took refuge and thereby saved their lives was not moved with the house, but the stairway with bullet holes made by shots from their muskets is one of the priceless relics of the remaining structure. A bullet hole is also in evidence in the parlor to the right of the front door. The room to the left, which was the kitchen of the original dwelling with a huge fireplace for cooking and its necessary utensils, is the most important in the house. The floor on which the bodies of Jason Russell and eleven fellow patriots were laid out "almost ankle deep" in blood was taken up, with blood-stains still visible, about 1863. The present floor shows authentic signs of age, but is the probable result of good restoration work performed by the

Society since it rescued the house in 1923.

The Society, which was organized in 1897 and existed for years before it acquired the historic house that now gives it a particular distinction, has done well whatever restoration it has attempted. A feature of unusual interest in the early kitchen are the black dots of uniform size painted on the beams, joists and boards of the ceiling, which were preserved under later plaster. This unique form of decoration, doubtless from the late 17th century, was uncovered by the Society as part of its restoration project. The shade of gray that was then applied to the exterior of the house may not be based on the evidence provided by any original color, but at least it helps to correct any erroneous impression to the effect that the popular color scheme introduced in the last century - a white house with green blinds - antedates the American Revolution.

The Jason Russell House has become the repository of a number of valuable objects that will always be connected with the British as they fought and plundered their way down the long village street of Old Menotomy. The home of Deacon Joseph Adams and his family, who had experiences that would never permit them to forget the marauding Regulars, disappeared long ago under the impact of the growing suburb, but in the Society's collection at its historic headquarters is to be seen today the chest that a thieving Redcoat pried open in order to carry off the parish communion silver. The latch was then broken and has never since been repaired. The silver, which was later recovered by Deacon Adams, is on exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts

in Boston. On the first stair landing of the Russell House, is the case of the Deacon's tall clock. The face and works are missing. A British soldier paused long enough to take them out and put them in his bundle of booty, and they never were replaced afterwards.

The Colonial farmhouse the Arlington Historical Society took the pains to save and retains in its charge is one of the most significant yet least known survivals from the first day of the War of the Revolution. The construction of speedier through ways and the solidly built-up and congested condition of Massachusetts Avenue have in recent years been the cause of discontinuing use of the latter as a common route of travel in and out of Boston. As a result, few tourists from any distance or unfamiliar with Boston's suburbs now ever have the opportunity to find the Jason Russell House.

The Society, in truth, requires help with the responsibility it has assumed less than it has need of being readily located. An integrated system of markers to cover the entire route of the British march and retreat could do a great deal to guide visitors to this rare specimen of the American heritage. Such a system, indeed, would aid this historic house immeasurably and other sites and structures that the chronological narrative in Appendix B has either brought to light again or endeavored to present in their true relationship as component parts of the incidents that make the 19th of April, 1775, a famous day in American history.

APPENDIX D

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - 1956 ACTS AND RESOLVES

(CHAP. 447)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON AND DEFINING ITS POWERS AND DUTIES, AND ESTABLISHING HISTORIC DISTRICTS IN THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose. - The purpose of this act is to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of historic buildings, places and districts through the development of appropriate settings for said buildings, places and districts and through the maintenance of said buildings, places and districts as landmarks of historic interest.

SECTION 2. Creation of Districts. - There is hereby established in the town of Lexington three historic districts to be known as (1) Battle Green District, (2) Hancock-Clarke District, and (3) Munroe Tavern District, bounded as follows:-

Battle Green District: Beginning at a point in the northwesterly property line of the municipal parking area between Waltham and Muzzey streets three hundred feet distant southwesterly from the southwesterly line of Massachusetts avenue; thence northwesterly and then westerly along a line distant three hundred feet southwesterly and then southerly from and parallel to the southwesterly and southerly line of Massachusetts avenue to the westerly line of Forest street; thence northerly along said westerly line of Forest street and said westerly line extended to a point on the northerly line of Massachusetts avenue; thence northwesterly along a straight line to a point in the southeasterly line of Worthen road distant eleven hundred feet southwesterly from the westerly line of Bedford street; thence northeasterly along said southeasterly line of Worthen road seven hundred feet to a point; thence easterly along a straight line to the intersection of the westerly line of the railroad right of way with the northerly lot line of the property now numbered twenty-one Bedford street; thence southeasterly along a straight line to a point in the northeasterly lot line of the railroad property three hundred and seventy feet distant southeasterly from the southeasterly line of Meriam street; thence southwesterly along a straight line to the point of beginning.

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Hancock-Clarke District: Beginning at the intersection of the westerly line of Hancock street with the northerly line of Hancock avenue; thence westerly along said northerly line of Hancock avenue two hundred feet to a point; thence northerly along a line distant two hundred feet westerly from and parallel to the westerly line of Hancock street to the southerly lot line of the property now numbered forty-six Hancock street; thence easterly along said southerly lot line to the westerly line of Hancock street; thence southeasterly in a straight line across Hancock street to the intersection of the easterly line of Hancock street with the southerly lot line of the property now numbered forty-five Hancock street; thence easterly along said southerly lot line two hundred feet to a point; thence southerly along a line distant two hundred feet easterly from and parallel to the easterly line of Hancock street to the northerly line of Edgewood road; thence westerly along said northerly line of Edgewood road to the easterly line of Hancock street; thence northwesterly in a straight line across Hancock street to the point of beginning.

Munroe Tavern District: Beginning at the intersection of the northeasterly line of Massachusetts avenue with the northerly lot line of Tower Park; thence northeasterly along said northerly lot line two hundred feet to a point; thence northerly and then northwesterly along a line distant two hundred feet northeasterly from and parallel to the northeasterly line of Massachusetts avenue to the southeasterly lot line of the property now numbered fourteen hundred and fifteen Massachusetts avenue; thence southwesterly along said southeasterly lot line to the northeasterly line of Massachusetts avenue; thence southwesterly in a straight line across Massachusetts avenue to the intersection of the southwesterly line of Massachusetts avenue with the northwesterly lot line of the property now numbered fourteen hundred and four Massachusetts avenue; thence southwesterly along said northwesterly lot line to a point distant two hundred feet southwesterly from the southwesterly line of Massachusetts avenue; thence southeasterly along a line distant two hundred feet southwesterly from and parallel to the southwesterly line of Massachusetts avenue to the northwesterly line of Percy road; thence southerly by a straight line across Percy road to a point in the southeasterly line of Percy road distant two hundred feet southwesterly from the intersection of said southeasterly line of Percy road with the westerly line of Tavern lane; thence southerly and then southeasterly along a line distant two hundred feet southwesterly from and parallel to the westerly and southwesterly line of Tavern lane and said southwesterly line extended to the southeasterly line of Eliot road; thence easterly and then southeasterly and southerly

along the southeasterly, southerly and southwesterly line of Eliot road to the southeasterly line of Pelham road; thence northeasterly along the southeasterly line of Pelham road to the southwesterly line of Massachusetts avenue; thence northeasterly in a straight line across Massachusetts avenue to the point of beginning.

Wherever only part of any building or structure is within an historic district according to the boundary lines as heretofore defined in this section, there shall be included within the historic district the entire land area occupied, or to be occupied, by all of said building or structure so that the whole building or structure shall be considered to be within the historic district for the purposes of this act.

SECTION 3. Definitions. - As used in this act, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:-

"Building", a combination of materials having a roof and forming a shelter for persons, animals or property.

"Building inspector", the building inspector of the town of Lexington.

"Commission", the historic districts commission established by section four.

"Erected", the word "erected" includes the words "built", "constructed", "reconstructed", "restored", "altered", "enlarged", and "moved".

"Exterior architectural feature", the architectural style and general arrangement of such portion of the exterior of a building or structure as is designed to be open to view from a public street, way, or place including the kind, color and texture of the building materials of such portion and the type and style of all windows, doors, lights, signs and other fixtures appurtenant to such portion.

"Historic districts", the districts established by section two.

"Person", the word "person" includes an individual, a corporate or unincorporated organization or association and the town of Lexington.

"Structure", a combination of materials, other than a building, sign or billboard.

SECTION 4. Creation and Organization of Historic Districts Commission. - There is hereby established in the town of Lexington an Historic Districts Commission consisting of five unpaid members who shall be residents of the town of Lexington, to be appointed by the selectmen of the town as follows: - two from four candidates nominated by the Lexington Historical Society, one from two candidates nominated by The Lexington

Arts and Crafts Society, Inc., one from two candidates nominated by the trustees of the Cary Memorial Library and one member selected at large by the selectmen. The members initially appointed hereunder shall serve, in the case of one member appointed upon nomination of the Lexington Historical Society, for a term expiring one year; in the case of the member appointed upon nomination of The Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, Inc., for a term expiring two years, in the case of the member appointed upon nomination of the trustees of the Cary Memorial Library, for a term expiring three years, in the case of the second member appointed upon nomination of the Lexington Historical Society, for a term expiring four years, in the case of the member appointed at large by the selectmen, for a term expiring five years, from January first following the year of such appointments. The selectmen also shall appoint for terms of five years from said January first two associate members of the commission selected from candidates of one each nominated by the aforesaid organizations and trustees, and in the case of a vacancy, inability to act, or interest on the part of a member of the commission his place may be taken by an associate member designated by the chairman of the commission. As the term of any member or associate member expires, his successor shall be appointed in like manner for a term of five years. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner for the unexpired term. Every member and associate member shall continue in office after the expiration of his term until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. Any member or associate member may be removed for cause by the appointing authority upon written charges and after a public hearing.

The commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary from its membership. In the case of absence of the chairman from any meeting, the commission shall elect a chairman pro tempore for such meeting.

SECTION 5. Limitations. - (a) No building or structure, except as provided under section six, shall be erected within the historic districts unless and until an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to exterior architectural features which are subject to view from a public street, way, or place shall have been filed with the commission and either a certificate of appropriateness, or a certificate that no exterior architectural feature is involved, shall have been issued by the commission.

(b) No building or structure within the historic districts shall be changed as to exterior color features which are subject to view from a public street, way, or place unless and until an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to change in such color features shall have been filed with the commission and such certificate shall have been issued by the commission.

(c) No building or structure within the historic districts, except as provided under section six, shall be demolished or removed unless and until an application for a permit to demolish or remove the same shall have been filed with the commission, and such permit shall have been issued by the commission.

(d) No occupational, commercial, or other sign, except as provided under section six, and no billboard shall be erected or displayed on any lot, or the exterior of any building or structure within the historic districts unless and until an application for a certificate of appropriateness shall

have been filed with the commission, and such certificate shall have been issued by the commission. In the case of any such sign or billboard erected or displayed prior to the effective date of this act, there shall be allowed a period of five years, subsequent to said effective date, in which to obtain such certificate.

(e) Except in cases excluded by section six:-

(1) No permit shall be issued by the building inspector for any building or structure to be erected within the historic districts, unless the application for said permit shall be accompanied either by a certificate of appropriateness or a certificate that no exterior architectural feature is involved, issued under section nine.

(2) No permit shall be issued by the building inspector for the demolition or removal of any building or structure within the historic districts unless the application for said permit shall be accompanied by a permit issued under said section nine.

SECTION 6. Exclusions. - (a) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior architectural feature of any building or structure within the historic districts; nor shall anything in this act be construed to prevent the erection, construction, reconstruction, restoration, alteration, or demolition of any such feature which the building inspector shall certify is required by the public safety because of an unsafe or dangerous condition; nor shall anything in this act be construed to prevent the erection, construction, reconstruction, restoration, alteration, or demolition of any such feature under a permit issued by the building inspector prior to the effective date of this act.

(b) The following structures and signs may be erected or displayed within the historic districts without the filing of an application for, or the issuance of, a certificate of appropriateness:-

(1) Temporary structures or signs for use in connection with any official celebration or parade, or any charitable drive in the town, provided that any such structure or sign shall be removed within three days following the termination of the celebration, parade or charitable drive for which said structure or sign shall have been erected or displayed. Any other temporary structures or signs which the commission shall determine from time to time may be excluded from the provisions of section five without substantial derogation from the intent and purposes of this act.

(2) Real estate signs of not more than three square feet in area advertising the sale or rental of the premises on which they are erected or displayed.

(3) Occupational or other signs of not more than one square foot in area and not more than one such sign, irrespective of size, bearing the name, occupation or address of the occupant of the premises on which such sign is erected or displayed where such premises are located within an R-1 one family dwelling district as defined in the Zoning By-Law of the town of Lexington.

SECTION 7. Applications to be Filed with Commission. - Excepting cases excluded by section six, any person who desires to erect, build, construct, reconstruct, restore, alter, move, demolish, remove, or change the exterior color features of any building or structure now or hereafter within the historic districts, or to erect or display within the historic districts any sign or billboard for which a certificate of appropriateness is required under paragraph (d) of section five, shall file with the commission an application for a certificate of appropriateness or a permit for demolition or removal, as the case may be, together with such plans, elevations, specifications, material and other information as shall be deemed necessary by the commission to enable it to make a determination on the application.

SECTION 8. Meetings, Hearings, Time for Making Determinations. - Meetings of the commission shall be held at the call of the chairman and also when called in such other manner as the commission shall determine in its rules. Five members, including associate members, of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

The commission shall determine promptly after the filing of an application for a certificate of appropriateness as to exterior architectural features, whether the application involves any such features. If the commission determines that such application involves any exterior architectural features, the commission shall hold a public hearing on such application. The commission also shall hold a public hearing on all other applications required to be filed with it under this act.

The commission shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing on any application and shall give public notice thereof by publishing notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing in a local newspaper at least fourteen days before said hearing and also, within seven days of said hearing, mail a copy of said notice to the applicant, to the owners of all property deemed by the commission to be affected thereby as they appear on the most recent local tax list, to the planning board of the town, and to such other persons as the commission shall deem entitled to notice.

As soon as convenient after such public hearing but in any event within sixty days after the filing of the application, or within such further time as the applicant shall allow in writing, the commission shall make a determination on the application. If the commission shall fail to make a determination within said sixty days, or within such further time allowed by the applicant, the commission shall be deemed to have approved the application.

SECTION 9. Powers, Functions, and Duties of Commission. - The commission shall have the following powers, functions and duties:-

(a) It shall pass upon:-

(1) The appropriateness of exterior architectural features of buildings and structures to be erected within the historic districts wherever such features are subject to view from a public street, way, or place.

(2) The appropriateness of changes in exterior color features of buildings and structures within the historic districts wherever such features are subject to view from a public street, way, or place.

(3) The demolition or removal of any building or structure within the historic districts. The commission may refuse a permit for the demolition or removal of any building or structure of architectural or historic interest, the removal of which in the opinion of the commission would be detrimental to the public interest.

(4) The appropriateness of the erection or display of occupational, commercial or other signs and billboards within the historic districts wherever a certificate of appropriateness for any such sign or billboard is required under paragraph (d) of section five.

In passing upon appropriateness, demolition or removal, the commission shall determine whether the features, demolition or removal, sign or billboard involved will be appropriate for the purposes of this act and, if it shall be determined to be inappropriate, shall determine whether, owing to conditions especially affecting the building, structure, sign or billboard involved, but not affecting the historic district generally, failure to approve an application will involve a substantial hardship to the applicant and whether such application may be approved without substantial detriment to the public welfare and without substantial derogation from the intent and purposes of this act. If the commission determines that the features, demolition or removal, sign or billboard involved will be appropriate or, although inappropriate, owing to conditions as aforesaid, failure to approve an application will involve substantial hardship to the applicant and approval thereof may be made without substantial detriment or derogation as aforesaid, the commission shall approve the application; but if the commission does not so determine, the application shall be disapproved.

In passing upon appropriateness the commission shall consider, among other things, the historical value and significance of the building or structure, the general design, arrangement, texture, material, and color of the features, sign or billboard involved, and the relation of such factors to similar factors of buildings and structures in the immediate

surroundings. The commission shall not consider relative size of buildings and structures, or detailed designs, interior arrangement and other building features not subject to public view. The commission shall not make any recommendations or requirements except for the purpose of preventing developments obviously incongruous to the purposes set forth in this act.

The concurring vote of three members, including associate members, of the commission shall be necessary to make a determination in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which the commission is required to pass under this act.

(b) In the case of an approval by the commission of an application for a certificate of appropriateness or a permit for demolition or removal, or in the event an application is deemed approved through failure to make a determination within the time specified in section eight, the commission shall cause a certificate of appropriateness or a permit for demolition or removal, as the case may be, dated and signed by its chairman or chairman pro tempore, to be issued to the applicant.

(c) In the case of disapproval of an application for a certificate of appropriateness or a permit for demolition or removal, the commission shall notify the applicant in writing, setting forth therein the reasons for its determination, and, as to applications for a certificate of appropriateness, the commission may make recommendations to the applicant with respect to appropriateness of design, arrangement, texture, material, color, and similar factors.

(d) In the case of a determination by the commission that an application for a certificate of appropriateness does not involve any exterior architectural feature, the commission shall cause a certificate of such determination, dated and signed by its chairman or chairman pro tempore, to be issued forthwith to the applicant.

(e) The commission shall keep a permanent record of its resolutions, transactions, and determinations, and may make such rules and regulations consistent with this act and prescribe such forms as it shall deem desirable and necessary.

(f) The commission shall file with the town clerk a notice of all determinations made by it, and approvals of applications through failure of the commission to make a determination within the time allowed under section eight, except that no notice of a determination that an application for a certificate of appropriateness does not involve any exterior architectural feature shall be filed.

(g) The commission may incur expenses necessary to the carrying on of its work within the amount of its appropriation.

SECTION 10. Appeals. - Any person aggrieved by a determination of the commission or by an approval of an application through failure of the commission to make a determination within the time allowed under section eight, whether or not previously a party to the proceeding, or any officer or board of the town may, within fifteen days after the filing of a notice of such determination or approval with the town clerk, appeal to the

superior court sitting in equity for the county of Middlesex. The court shall hear all pertinent evidence and determine the facts and if, upon the facts so determined, such determination or approval is found to exceed the authority of the commission, the court shall annul such determination or approval and remand the case for further action by the commission. The remedies provided by this action shall be exclusive; but the parties shall have all rights of appeal and exception as in other equity cases.

Costs shall not be allowed against the commission unless it shall appear to the court that the commission acted in bad faith or with malice in the matter from which the appeal was taken.

Costs shall not be allowed against the party appealing from such determination or approval of the commission unless it shall appear to the court that said party acted in bad faith or with malice in making the appeal to the court.

SECTION 11. Enforcement. - Any person who violates any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

The superior court sitting in equity for the county of Middlesex shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this act and the determinations, rulings, and regulations issued thereunder and may restrain by injunction violations thereof and issue such other orders for relief of violations as may be required.

SECTION 12. Severability of Provisions. - The provisions of this act shall be deemed to be severable; and in case any section, paragraph or part of this act shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair the validity of any other sections, paragraphs or parts of this act.

SECTION 13. Effective Date of Act. - This act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the town by vote of its town meeting members at an annual town meeting or any special town meeting called for the purpose.

Approved June 11, 1956.

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - 1958 ACTS AND RESOLVES

(CHAP. 185)

AN ACT TO FURTHER DEFINE THE MEMBERSHIP, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION IN THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 4 of chapter 447 of the acts of 1956 is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following three sentences:— The selectmen also shall appoint for terms of five years from January first following the year of such appointments four associate members of the commission selected from candidates nominated by the aforesaid organizations and trustees, each such organization and trustees to nominate two each when two or more associate members are to be appointed and to nominate one each when only one associate member is to be appointed. In case of the absence, inability to act, or interest on the part of a member of the commission his place may be taken by an associate member designated by the chairman of the commission. In case of a vacancy on said commission the chairman may designate an associate member to serve as a member of the commission until said vacancy is filled as provided in this section.

SECTION 2. Section 6 of said chapter 447 is hereby amended by adding at the end the following paragraph:—

(c) The exterior color of any building or structure within the historic districts may be changed to white without the filing of an application for, or the issuance of, a certificate of appropriateness.

SECTION 3. The second paragraph of section 8 of said chapter 447 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:— The commission also shall hold a public hearing on all other applications required to be filed with it under this act, except that the commission may approve an application for a change in exterior color features without holding a hearing if it determines that the color change proposed is appropriate.

SECTION 4. The third paragraph of section 9 of said chapter 447 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 10 to 13, the words "The commission shall not make any recommendations or requirements except for the purpose of preventing developments obviously incongruous to the purposes set forth in this act."

SECTION 5. Said section 9 of said chapter 447 is hereby further amended by inserting after said third paragraph the following paragraph:—

In approving an application the commission may impose conditions which, if the certificate of appropriateness is acted upon, shall be binding upon the applicant, the owner of the property and his successors in title.

SECTION 6. Said section 9 of said chapter 447 is hereby further amended by striking out paragraph (c) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—

(c) In the case of disapproval of an application for a certificate of appropriateness or a permit for demolition or removal, the commission shall cause a notice of its determination, dated and signed by its chairman or chairman pro tempore, to be issued to the applicant, setting forth therein the reasons for its determination, and, as to applications for a certificate of appropriateness, the commission may make recommendations to the applicant with respect to appropriateness of design, arrangement, texture, material, color, and similar factors. The commission shall not make any recommendations except for the purpose of preventing developments obviously incongruous to the purposes set forth in this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 24, 1958.

APPENDIX E

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HISTORIC SITES ACT

An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666)

Be it enacted in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is hereby declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary), through the National Park Service, for the purpose of effectuating the policy expressed in section 1 hereof, shall have the following powers and perform the following duties and functions:

(a) Secure, collate, and preserve drawings, plans, photographs, and other data of historic and archeologic sites, buildings and objects.

(b) Make a survey of historic and archeologic sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.

(c) Make necessary investigations and researches in the United States relating to particular sites, buildings, or objects to obtain true and accurate historical and archeological facts and information concerning the same.

(d) For the purpose of this Act, acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, or otherwise any property, personal or real, or any interest or estate therein, title to any real property to be satisfactory to the Secretary: Provided, That no such property which is owned by any religious or educational institution, or which is owned or administered for the benefit of the public shall be so acquired without the consent of the owner: Provided, further, That no such property shall be acquired or contract or agreement for the acquisition thereof made which will obligate the general fund of the Treasury for the payment of such property, unless or until Congress has appropriated money which is available for that purpose.

(e) Contract and make cooperative agreements with States, municipal subdivisions, corporations, associations, or individuals, with proper bond where deemed advisable, to protect,

preserve, maintain, or operate any historic or archeologic building, site, object, or property used in connection therewith for public use, regardless as to whether title thereof is in the United States: Provided, That no contract or cooperative agreement shall be made or entered into which will obligate the general fund of the Treasury unless or until Congress has appropriated money for such purpose.

(f) Restore, reconstruct, rehabilitate, preserve, and maintain historic or prehistoric sites, buildings, objects, and properties of national historical or archeological significance and where deemed desirable establish and maintain museums in connection therewith.

(g) Erect and maintain tablets to mark or commemorate historic or prehistoric places and events or national historical or archeological significance.

(h) Operate and manage historic and archeologic sites, buildings, and properties acquired under the provisions of this Act together with lands and subordinate buildings for the benefit of the public, such authority to include the power to charge reasonable visitation fees and grant concessions, leases, or permits for the use of land, building space, roads, or trails when necessary or desirable either to accommodate the public or to facilitate administration: Provided, That such concessions, leases or permits, shall be let at competitive bidding, to the person making the highest and best bid.

(i) When the Secretary determines that it would be administratively burdensome to restore, reconstruct, operate, or maintain a particular historic or archeologic site, building, or property donated to the United States through the National Park Service, he may cause the same to be done by organizing a corporation for that purpose under the laws of the District of Columbia or any state.

(j) Develop an educational program and service for the purpose of making available to the public facts and information pertaining to American historic and archeologic sites, buildings, and properties of national significance. Reasonable charges may be made for the dissemination of any such facts or information.

(k) Perform any and all acts, and make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with this Act as may be necessary and proper to carry out the provisions thereof. Any person violating any of the rules and regulations authorized by this Act shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 and be adjudged to pay all cost of the proceedings.

Sec. 3. A general advisory board to be known as the "Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments" is hereby established, to be composed of not to exceed eleven persons, citizens of the United States, to include representatives competent in the fields of history, archeology, architecture, and human geography, who shall be

appointed by the Secretary and serve at his pleasure. The members of such board shall receive no salary but may be paid expenses incidental to travel when engaged in discharging their duties as such members.

It shall be the duty of such board to advise on any matters relating to national parks and to the administration of this Act submitted to it for consideration by the Secretary. It may also recommend policies to the Secretary from time to time pertaining to national parks and to the restoration, reconstruction, conservation, and general administration of historic and archeologic sites, buildings, and properties.

Sec. 4. The Secretary, in administering this Act, is authorized to cooperate with and may seek and accept the assistance of any Federal, State, or municipal department or agency, or any educational or scientific institution, or any patriotic association, or any individual.

(b) When deemed necessary, technical advisory committees may be established to act in an advisory capacity in connection with the restoration or reconstruction of any historic or prehistoric building or structure.

(c) Such professional and technical assistance may be employed without regard to the civil-service laws, and such service may be established as may be required to accomplish the purposes of this Act and for which money may be appropriated by Congress or made available by gifts for such purpose.

Sec. 5. Nothing in this Act shall be held to deprive any State, or political subdivision thereof, of its civil and criminal jurisdiction in and over lands acquired by the United States under this Act.

Sec. 6. There is authorized to be appropriated for carrying out the purposes of this Act such sums as the Congress may from time to time determine.

Sec. 7. The provisions of this Act shall control if any of them are in conflict with any other Act or Acts relating to the same subject matter. (16 U. S. C., secs. 461-467). (120-05).

APPENDIX F

MAPS

This appendix contains eight maps of page size relating to both historic routes and present highways. They are followed by two folding maps defining existing and suggested historic districts and Units A and B recommended by the Commission for a national historical park.

The maps of page size are arranged in the following order:

Historic Routes of April 18-19, 1775.

Present Highways Embracing Historic Boston, Lexington and Concord.

Route of the British, April 19, 1775 - 6 sheets divided and presented in this order:

Munroe Tavern, Lexington, to Bluff-Fiske Hill Area, Lexington.

Bluff, Lexington, to Brooks or Hardy's Hill, Concord.

Brooks or Hardy's Hill, Concord, to North Bridge, Concord.

Lexington Road, Concord, to Col. Barrett's House, Concord, and to South Bridge, Concord.

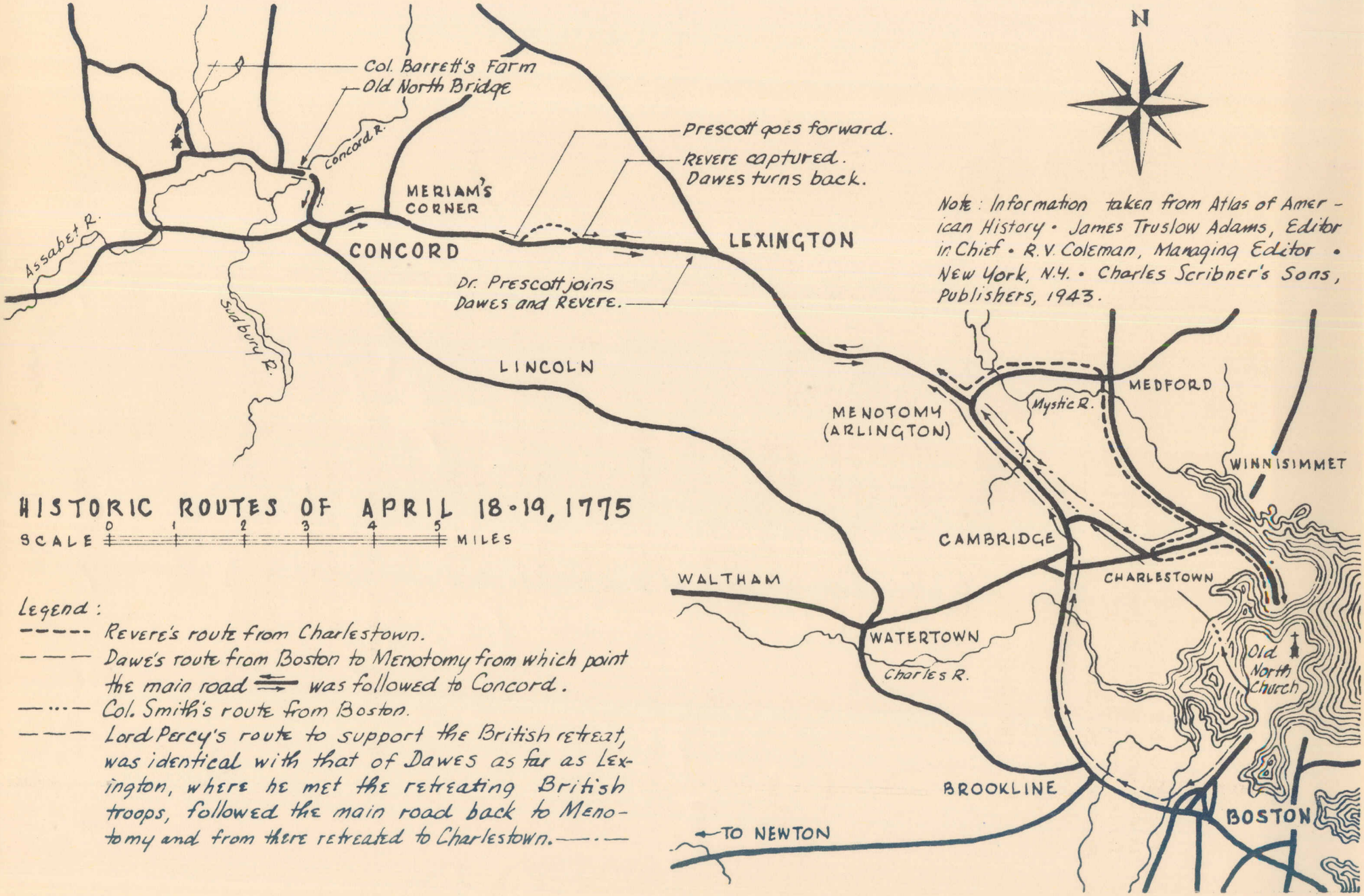
Alewife Brook, Arlington-Cambridge Boundary Line, to Lexington Green.

Boston to Alewife Brook, Arlington-Cambridge Boundary Line.

The folding maps bear the following captions:

Comprehensive Plan, Lexington-Lincoln-Concord Battle Road Area.

Proposed Boundaries, Unit B, North Bridge, Concord Battle Road Area.



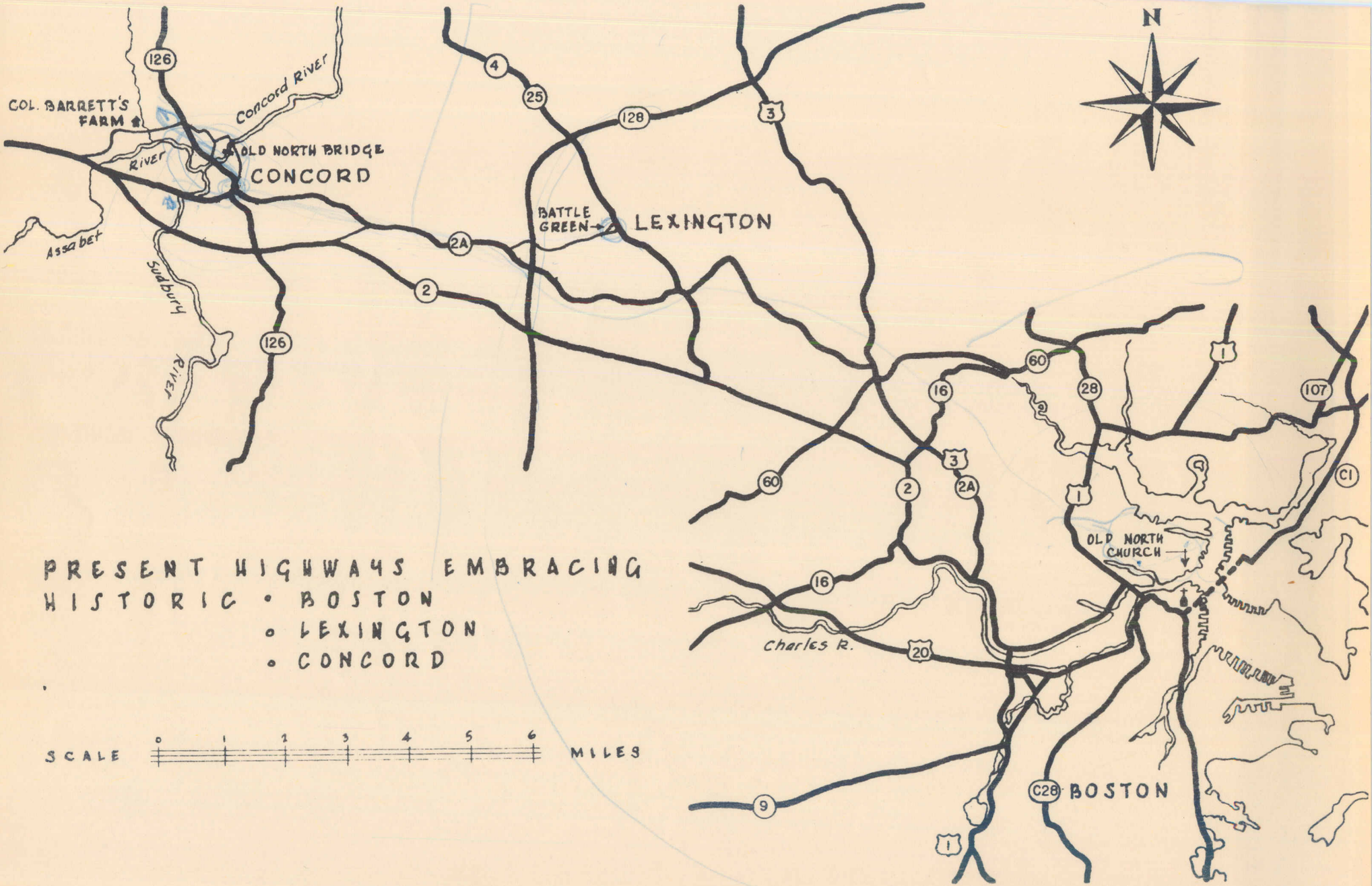
Note: Information taken from Atlas of American History • James Truslow Adams, Editor in Chief • R.V. Coleman, Managing Editor • New York, N.Y. • Charles Scribner's Sons, Publishers, 1943.

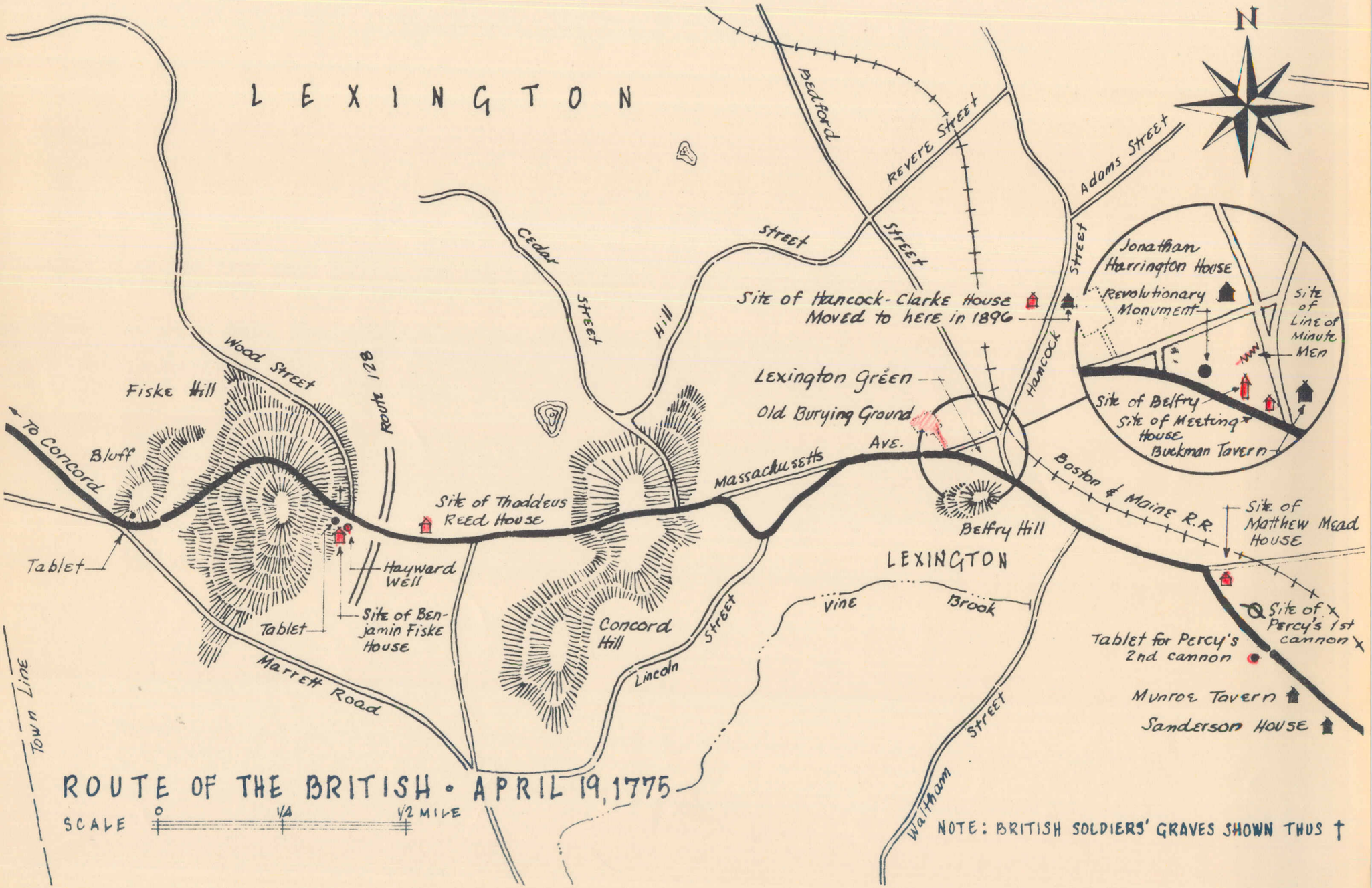
HISTORIC ROUTES OF APRIL 18-19, 1775

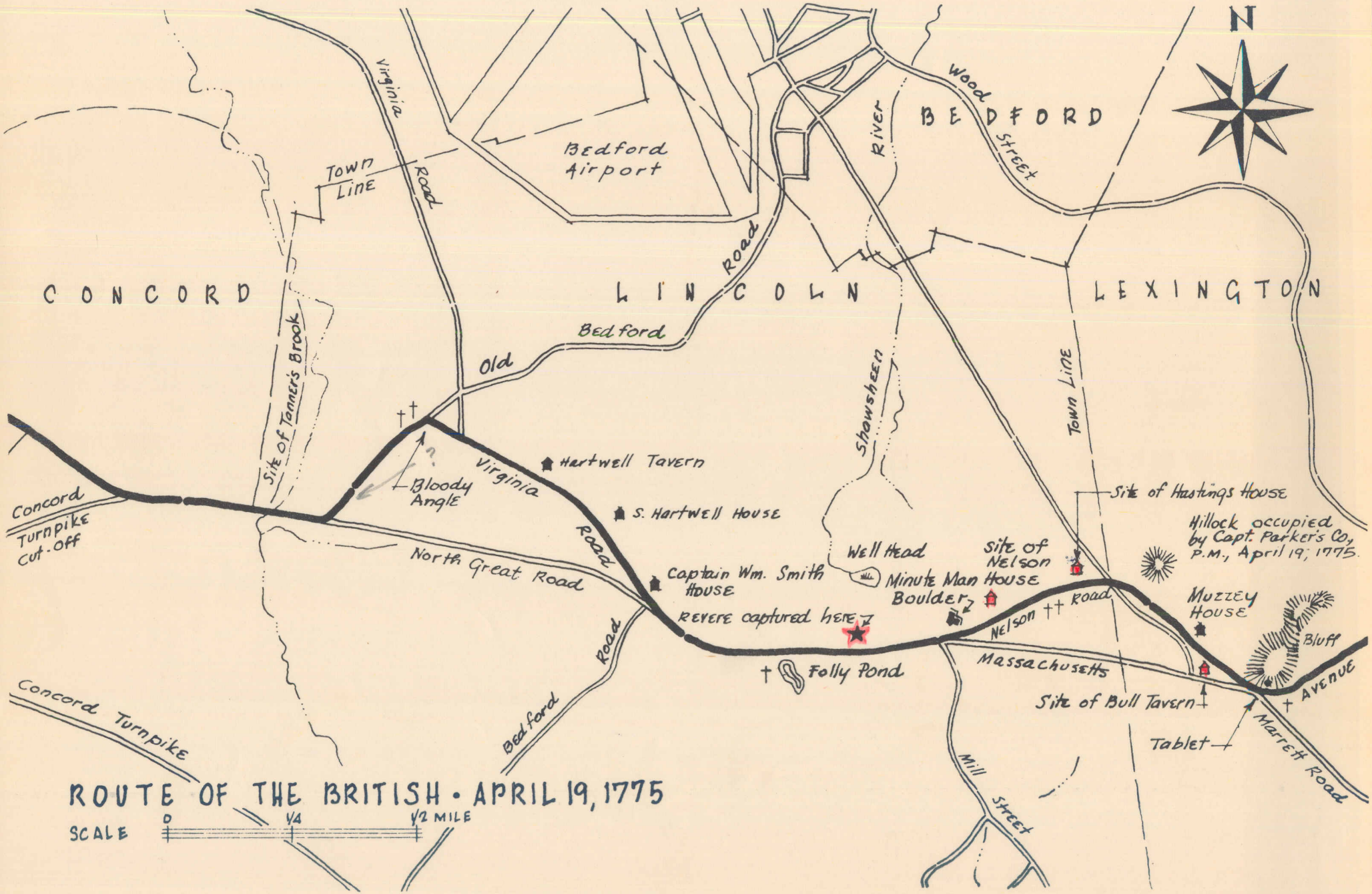
SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

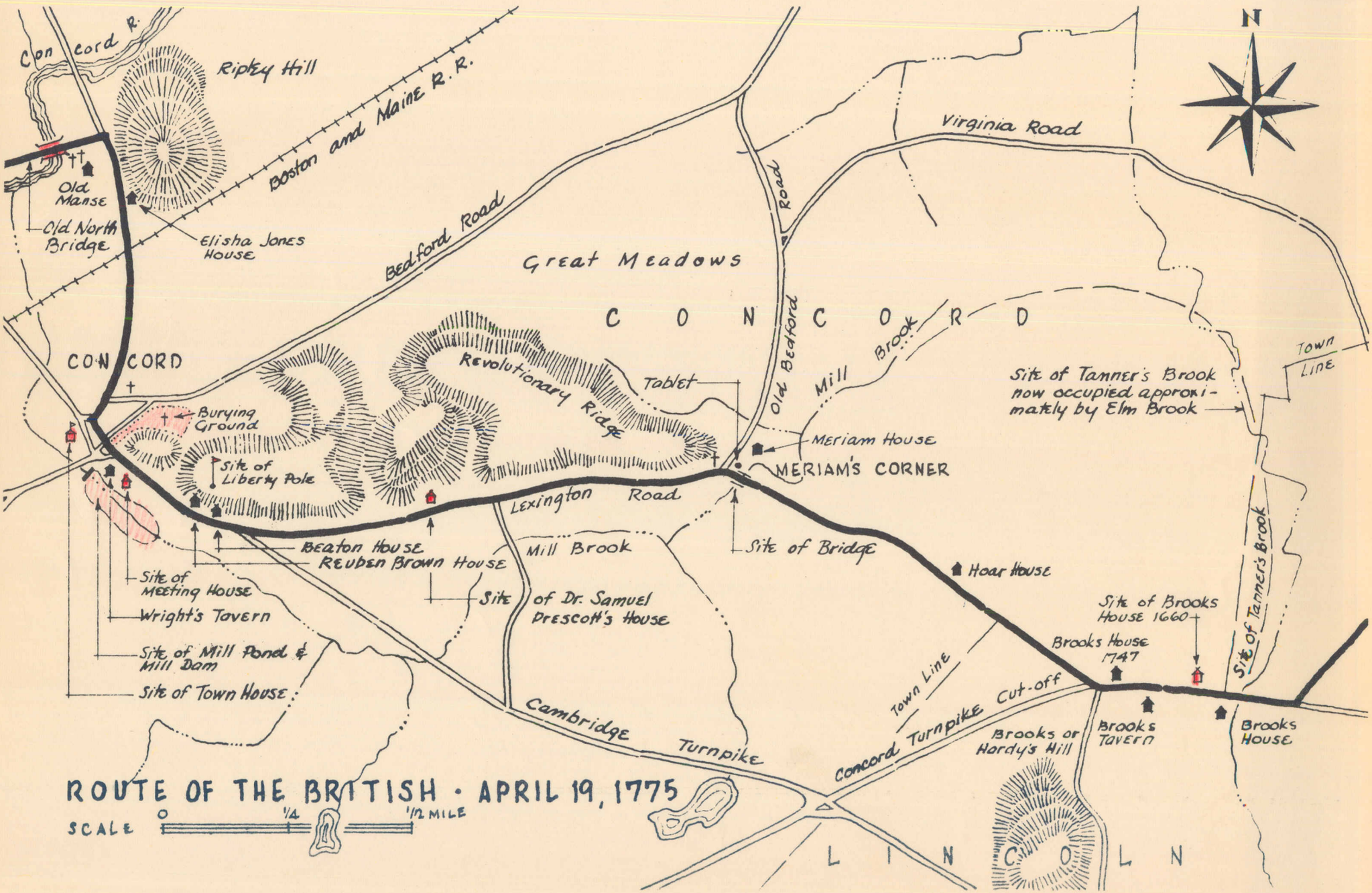
Legend:

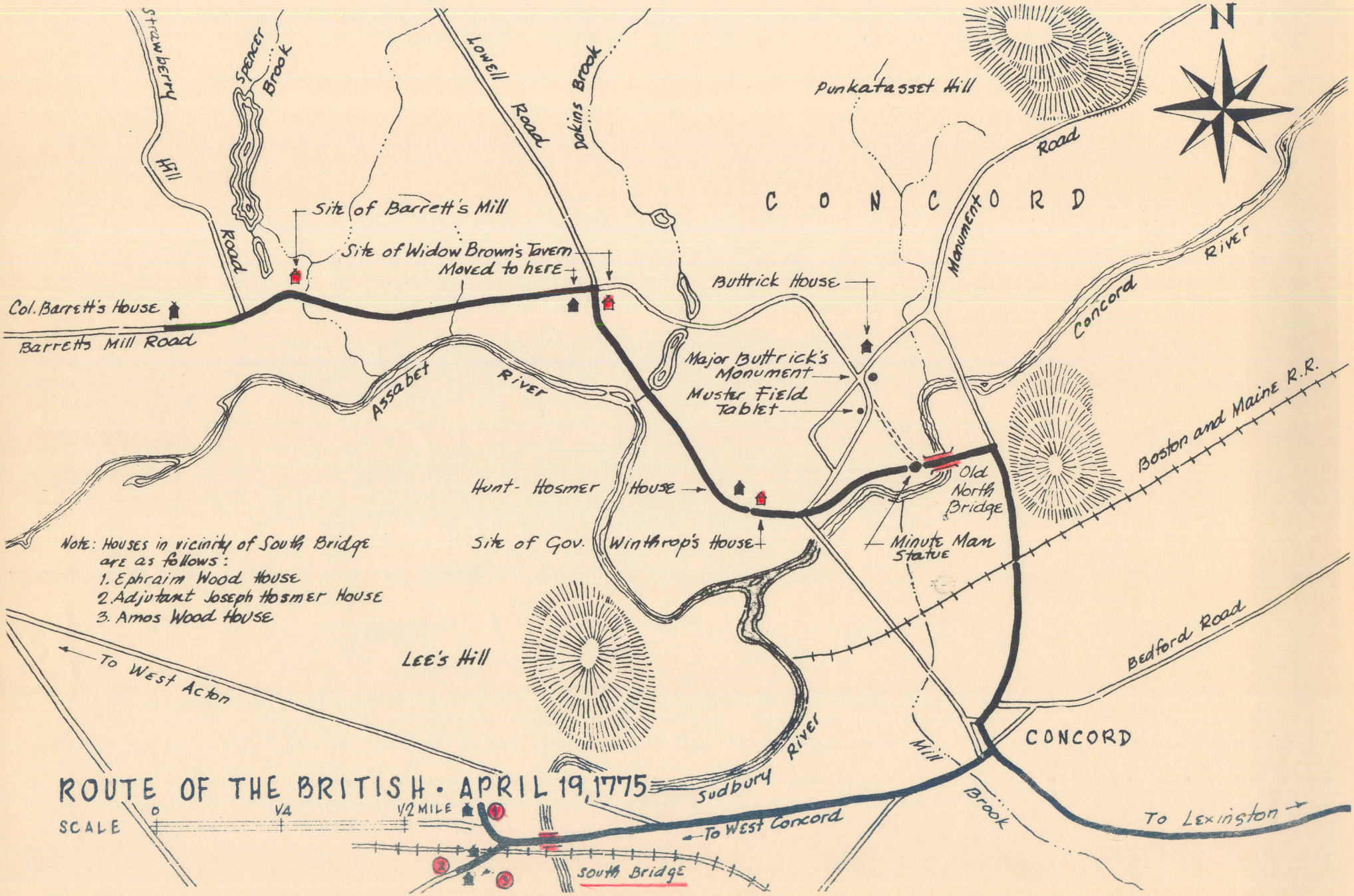
- ----- Revere's route from Charlestown.
- — — Dawe's route from Boston to Menotomy from which point the main road ⇌ was followed to Concord.
- — ·· — Col. Smith's route from Boston.
- — — Lord Percy's route to support the British retreat, was identical with that of Dawes as far as Lexington, where he met the retreating British troops, followed the main road back to Menotomy and from there retreated to Charlestown. — · —

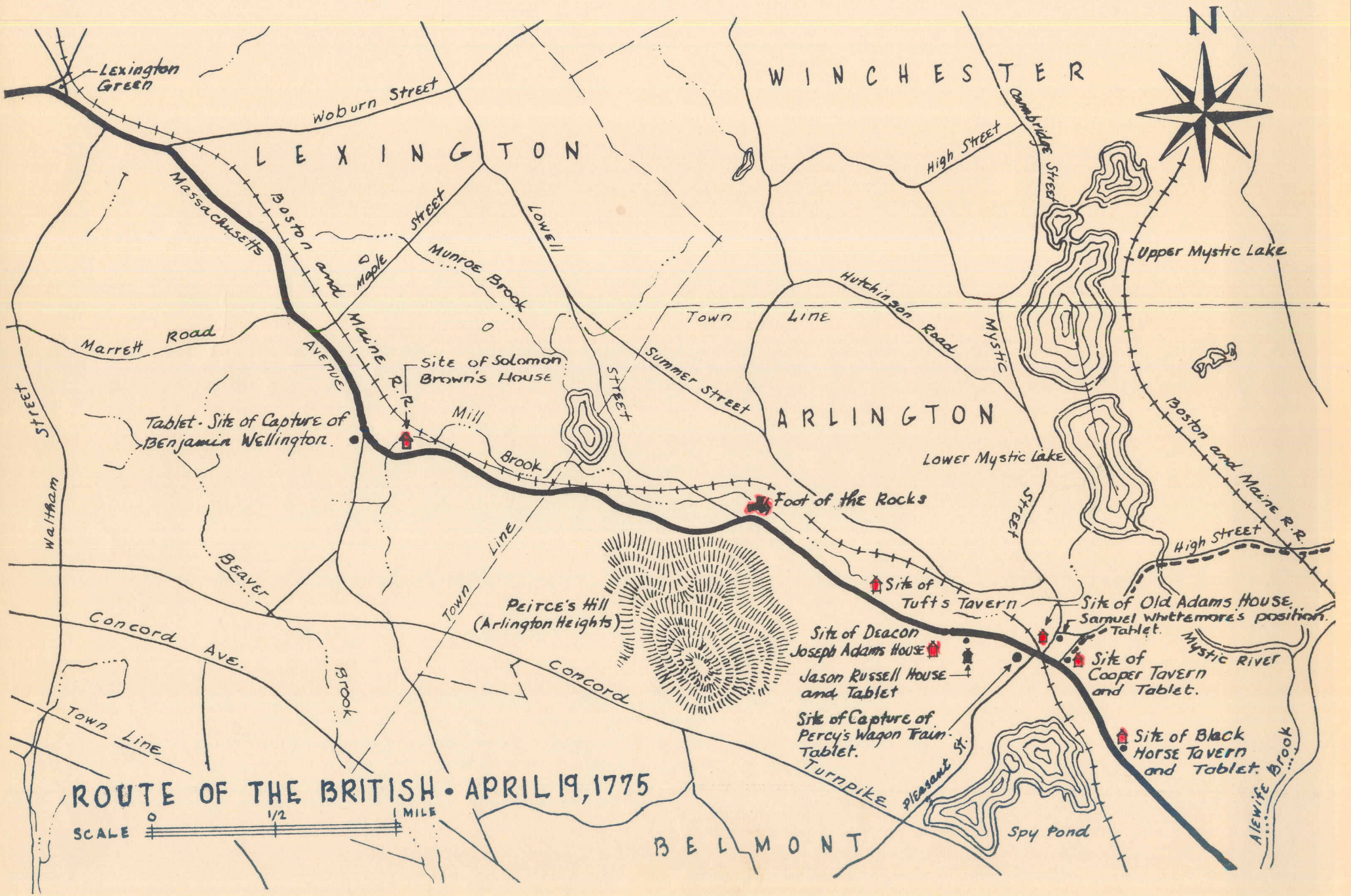

N
126
Concord River
COL. BARRETT'S FARM
River
OLD NORTH BRIDGE
CONCORD
Assabet
Sudbury
River
126
4
25
128
3
BATTLE GREEN
LEXINGTON
2A
2
60
16
28
1
107
3
2
2A
1
C1
60
OLD NORTH CHURCH
16
Charles R.
20
C28
BOSTON
9
1
PRESENT HIGHWAYS EMBRACING
HISTORIC • BOSTON
• LEXINGTON
• CONCORD
SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

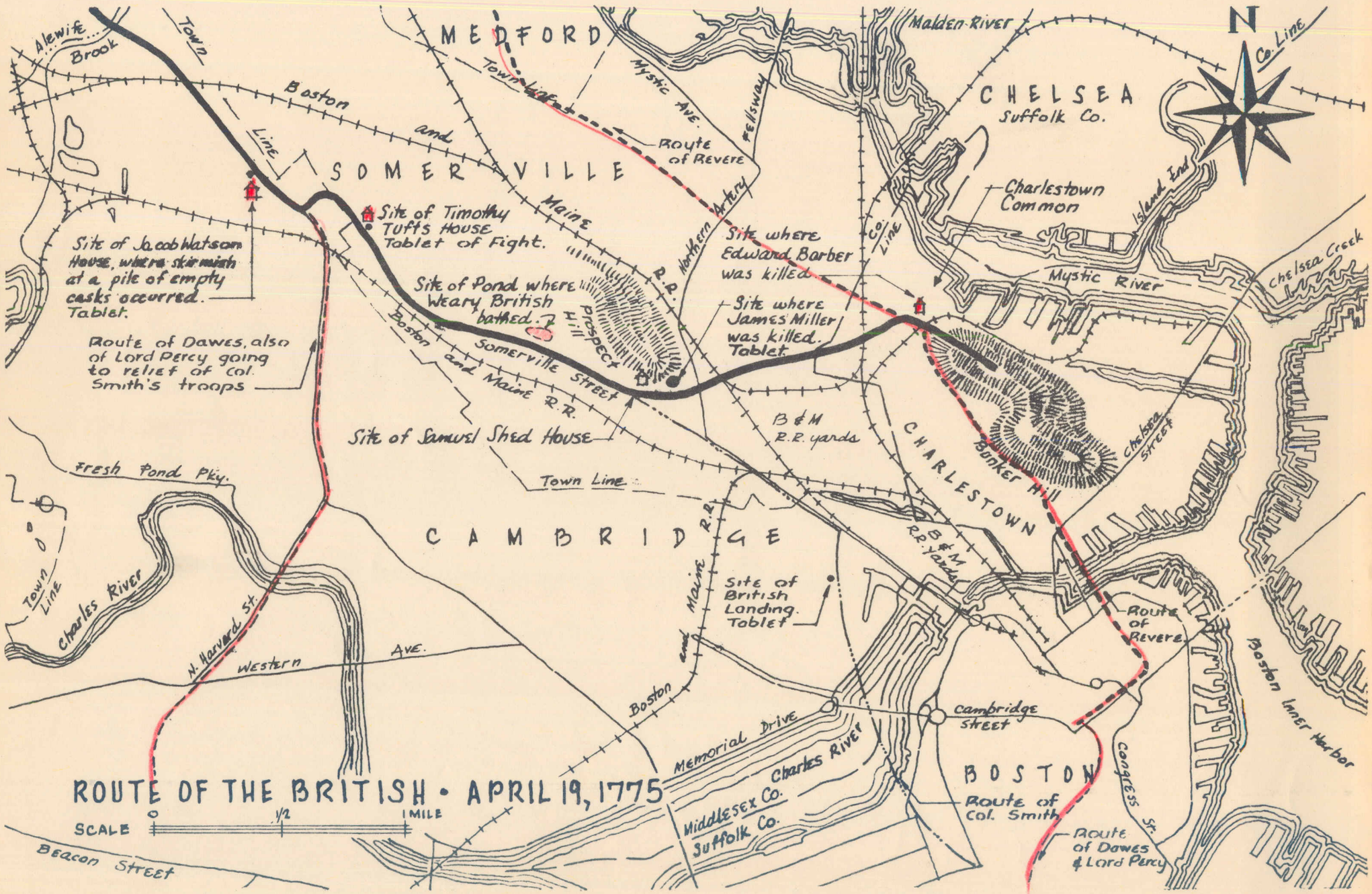

LEXINGTON
N
Bedford
Revere Street
Adams Street
Cedar Street
Hill
Street
Site of Hancock-Clarke House
Moved to here in 1896
Hancock Street
Jonathan Harrington House
Revolutionary Monument
Site of Line of Minute Men
Lexington Green
Old Burying Ground
Site of Belfry
Site of Meeting House
Buckman Tavern
Wood Street
Fiske Hill
Route 128
To Concord
Bluff
Massachusetts Ave.
Boston & Maine R.R.
Site of Thaddeus Reed House
Belfry Hill
Site of Matthew Mead House
LEXINGTON
Tablet
Hayward Well
Site of Benjamin Fiske House
Tablet
Concord Hill
Vine Brook
Site of Percy's 1st cannon
Tablet for Percy's 2nd cannon
Marrett Road
Lincoln Street
Munroe Tavern
Sanderson House
Town Line
Waltham Street
ROUTE OF THE BRITISH • APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE 0 1/4 1/2 MILE
NOTE: BRITISH SOLDIERS' GRAVES SHOWN THUS †


N
BEDFORD
CONCORD
LINCOLN
LEXINGTON
Bedford Airport
Virginia Road
Town Line
Wood Street
River
Old Bedford Road
Site of Tanner's Brook
Bloody Angle
Hartwell Tavern
S. Hartwell House
Virginia Road
Concord Turnpike Cut-Off
North Great Road
Captain Wm. Smith House
Revere captured here
Well Head
Minute Man Boulder
Site of Nelson House
Site of Hastings House
Hillock occupied by Capt. Parker's Co. P.M., April 19, 1775.
Muzzey House
Nelson Road
Massachusetts
Site of Bull Tavern
Tablet
Bluff
Avenue
Marrett Road
Folly Pond
Bedford Road
Concord Turnpike
Mill Street
Shawsheen
Town Line
ROUTE OF THE BRITISH • APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE
0
1/4
1/2 MILE


Concord R.
Ripley Hill
Boston and Maine R.R.
Old Manse
Old North Bridge
Elisha Jones House
Bedford Road
Great Meadows
CONCORD
Revolutionary Ridge
Tablet
Burying Ground
Site of Liberty Pole
Old Bedford Road
Mill Brook
Meriam House
MERIAM'S CORNER
Virginia Road
Site of Tanner's Brook now occupied approximately by Elm Brook
Town Line
Lexington Road
Site of Bridge
Beaton House
Reuben Brown House
Site of Meeting House
Wright's Tavern
Site of Mill Pond & Mill Dam
Site of Town House
Site of Dr. Samuel Prescott's House
Hoar House
Site of Brooks House 1660
Brooks House 1747
Site of Tanner's Brook
Town Line
Concord Turnpike Cut-off
Brooks or Hardy's Hill
Brooks Tavern
Brooks House
Cambridge Turnpike
LINCOLN
N
ROUTE OF THE BRITISH · APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE
0
1/4
1/2 MILE


ROUTE OF THE BRITISH · APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE
0
1/4
1/2 MILE
N
CONCORD
Strawberry Hill Road
Spencer Brook
Lowell Road
Dakins Brook
Punkatasset Hill
Monument Road
Site of Barrett's Mill
Site of Widow Brown's Tavern Moved to here
Col. Barrett's House
Barretts Mill Road
Buttrick House
Major Buttrick's Monument
Muster Field Tablet
Concord River
Assabet River
Boston and Maine R.R.
Old North Bridge
Minute Man Statue
Hunt-Hosmer House
Site of Gov. Winthrop's House
Note: Houses in vicinity of South Bridge are as follows:
1. Ephraim Wood House
2. Adjutant Joseph Hosmer House
3. Amos Wood House
To West Acton
Lee's Hill
Bedford Road
Sudbury River
Mill Brook
To West Concord
To Lexington
South Bridge


Lexington Green
Woburn Street
LEXINGTON
WINCHESTER
High Street
Cambridge Street
N
Upper Mystic Lake
Massachusetts
Boston and Maine R.R.
Maple Street
Lowell
Munroe Brook
Town Line
Hutchinson Road
Mystic
Marrett Road
Maine Ave.
Site of Solomon Brown's House
R.R.
Summer Street
ARLINGTON
Tablet - Site of Capture of Benjamin Wellington
Mill Brook
Lower Mystic Lake
Boston and Maine R.R.
Foot of the Rocks
Waltham Street
Beaver Brook
Peirce's Hill (Arlington Heights)
Site of Tuft's Tavern
Site of Old Adams House. Samuel Whittemores position. Tablet.
Site of Deacon Joseph Adams House
Jason Russell House and Tablet
Site of Capture of Percy's Wagon Train Tablet.
Site of Cooper Tavern and Tablet.
Site of Black Horse Tavern and Tablet.
Mystic River
Concord Ave.
Concord Turnpike
Pleasant St.
Spy Pond
Alewife Brook
BELMONT
ROUTE OF THE BRITISH • APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE 0 1/2 1 MILE


ROUTE OF THE BRITISH • APRIL 19, 1775
SCALE 0 1/2 1 MILE
N
MEDFORD
SOMERVILLE
CHELSEA
Suffolk Co.
CAMBRIDGE
CHARLESTOWN
BOSTON
Middlesex Co.
Suffolk Co.
Alewife Brook
Town Line
Boston and Maine Line
Malden River
Co. Line
Mystic Ave.
Fellsway
Route of Revere
Northern Artery
Site of Timothy Tufts House Tablet of Fight.
Site of Jacob Watson House, where skirmish at a pile of empty casks occurred. Tablet.
Route of Dawes, also of Lord Percy going to relief of Col. Smith's troops
Site of Pond where Weary British bathed.
Prospect Hill
Boston and Maine R.R.
Somerville Street
Site where Edward Barber was killed
Site where James Miller was killed. Tablet.
Charlestown Common
Island End
Mystic River
Chelsea Creek
Chelsea Street
B & M R.R. yards
Bunker Hill
Site of Samuel Shed House
Town Line
Fresh Pond Pky.
Charles River
N. Harvard St.
Western Ave.
Boston and Maine R.R.
Site of British Landing. Tablet
Route of Revere
Boston Inner Harbor
Cambridge Street
Memorial Drive
Charles River
Congress St.
Route of Col. Smith
Route of Dawes & Lord Percy
Beacon Street

APPENDIX G

PICTURES

Reproduced in this pictorial appendix are the four famous wood engravings by Amos Doolittle depicting the British in Lexington and Concord and 24 photographic views, both early and recent, along the historic route of the 19th of April, 1775. The excellent set of the Doolittle engravings at the Connecticut Historical Society has been used through the courtesy and cooperation not only of the Society but of Mr. E. Harold Hugo of the Meriden Gravure Company. Eight of the photographic views afford a comparison of conditions at four points along the route now and well over half a century ago. Changes in the historical landscape since 1900 range all the way from very little or practically none to total obliteration.

Amos Doolittle, in 1775, was a young silversmith of 21 with ambitions also to become an engraver. Accompanied by Ralph Earl, a primitive portrait painter of the same age, he visited the historic battlegrounds in Lexington and Concord during the early summer. Both were members of the Connecticut Militia that had arrived to take part in the siege of Boston and were permitted to go out from Cambridge in order to record some of the incidents that marked the opening day of warfare. Earl is supposed to have done the drawings for the eventual engravings while Doolittle posed at his direction. From his drawings, it is assumed Earl later completed several paintings that are known to exist. The engraved prints were offered for sale soon after at a price of six shillings for the set of four, plain, and eight shillings, in color. When available, they now command some of the highest prices paid for any prints of American origin. The engravings in the order assembled represent:

Plate I - The Battle of Lexington: The engagement on the Battle Green, showing Buckman Tavern, the Meetinghouse and Old Belfry in the background. Doolittle is mistaken in representing the "Regular Granadiers" as firing on the Minute Men. Actually, the platoons that did the firing belonged to the light infantry sent on ahead of the grenadiers. The latter were among the troops Doolittle's caption identifies as "Regular Companies."

Plate II - A View of the Town of Concord: Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairn making observations from the hillside cemetery while their 13 companies of light infantry and grenadiers are on parade in Concord's public square about 7:30 A.M. Wright's Tavern, which still survives, shows up behind the troops massed in the center of the picture.

Plate III - The Engagement at the North Bridge in Concord: The view of the action is from the Old Manse property. The muster field on Punkatasset Hill is the elevation behind the firing Minute Men. To the right of it is the Buttrick House.

Plate IV - A View of the South Part of Lexington: The meeting of the British relief party under Earl Percy and Lieutenant Colonel Smith's weary troops about 3:00 P.M. is depicted at East Lexington not far from the Munroe Tavern, which does not show in the picture. The view is from the west looking east and shows flames consuming three buildings and part of a fourth, at the extreme left, out of a total of six burned by the British in Lexington. The "Provincials" firing on the "Brigade" are being kept at a distance, behind secondary stone walls, by the British "Flanck-guards."

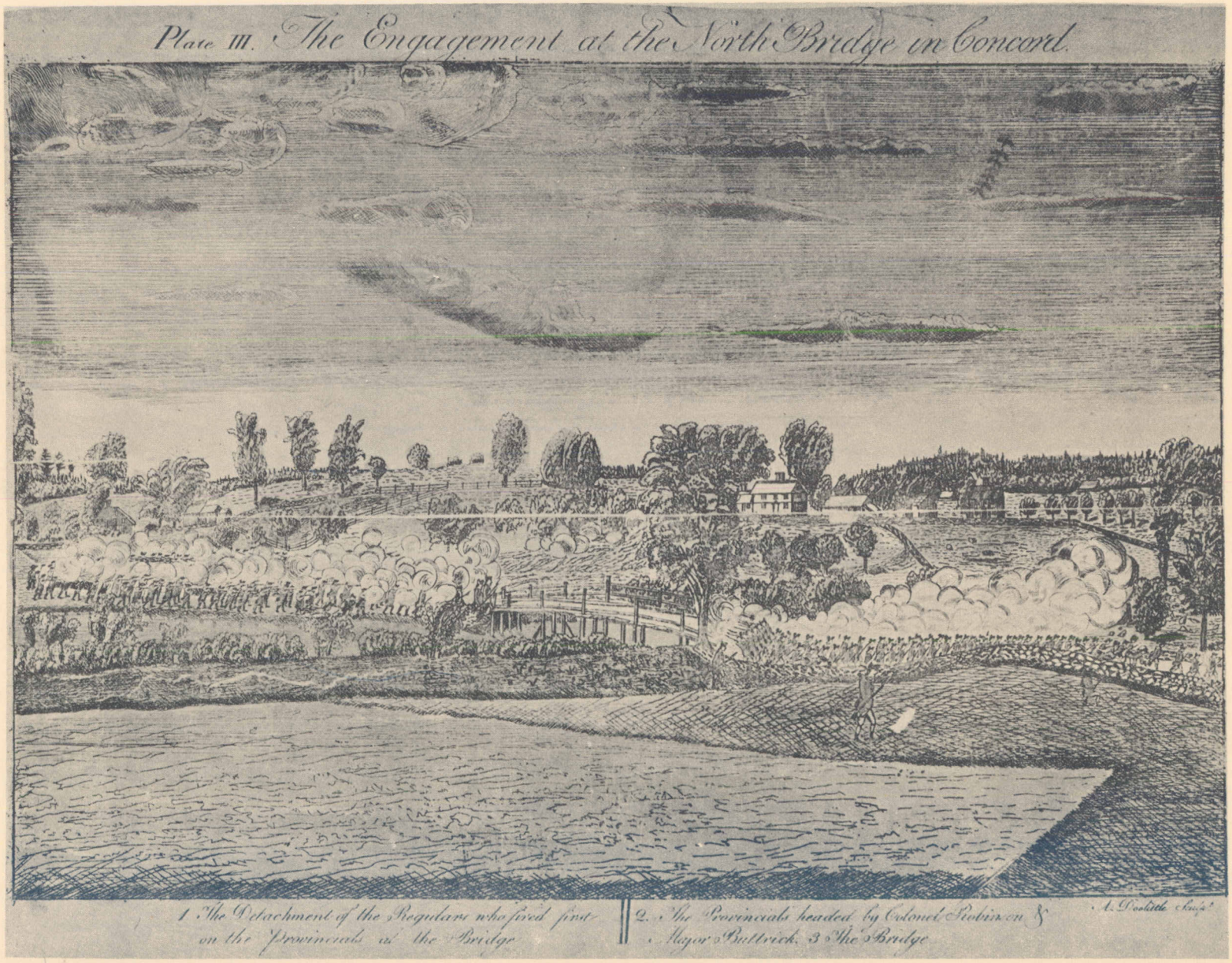
The photographic views that follow the reproductions of the Doolittle prints are numbered consecutively and explained by suitable captions.

46838


The Battle of Lexington, April 19th 1775. Plate I.
Presented by John C. Barrow, Esq.
1. Major Pitcairn, at the head of the Regular Grenadiers.
2. The Party, who first fired on the Provincials at Lexington
3. Part of the Provincial Company of Lexington.
4. Regular Companies on the road to Concord.
5. The Meetinghouse at Lexington.
6. The Public Inn.
A. Doolittle Sculp.


Plate II. A View of the Town of Concord
1 Companies of the Regulars marching into Concord
2 Companies of Regulars drawn up in order.
3 A Detachment destroying the Provincials Stores
4 & 5 Colonel Smith & Mayor Pitcairn viewing the Provincials who were mustering on an East Hill in Concord.
6 The Townhouse & The Meetinghouse
A. Doolittle sculpt.

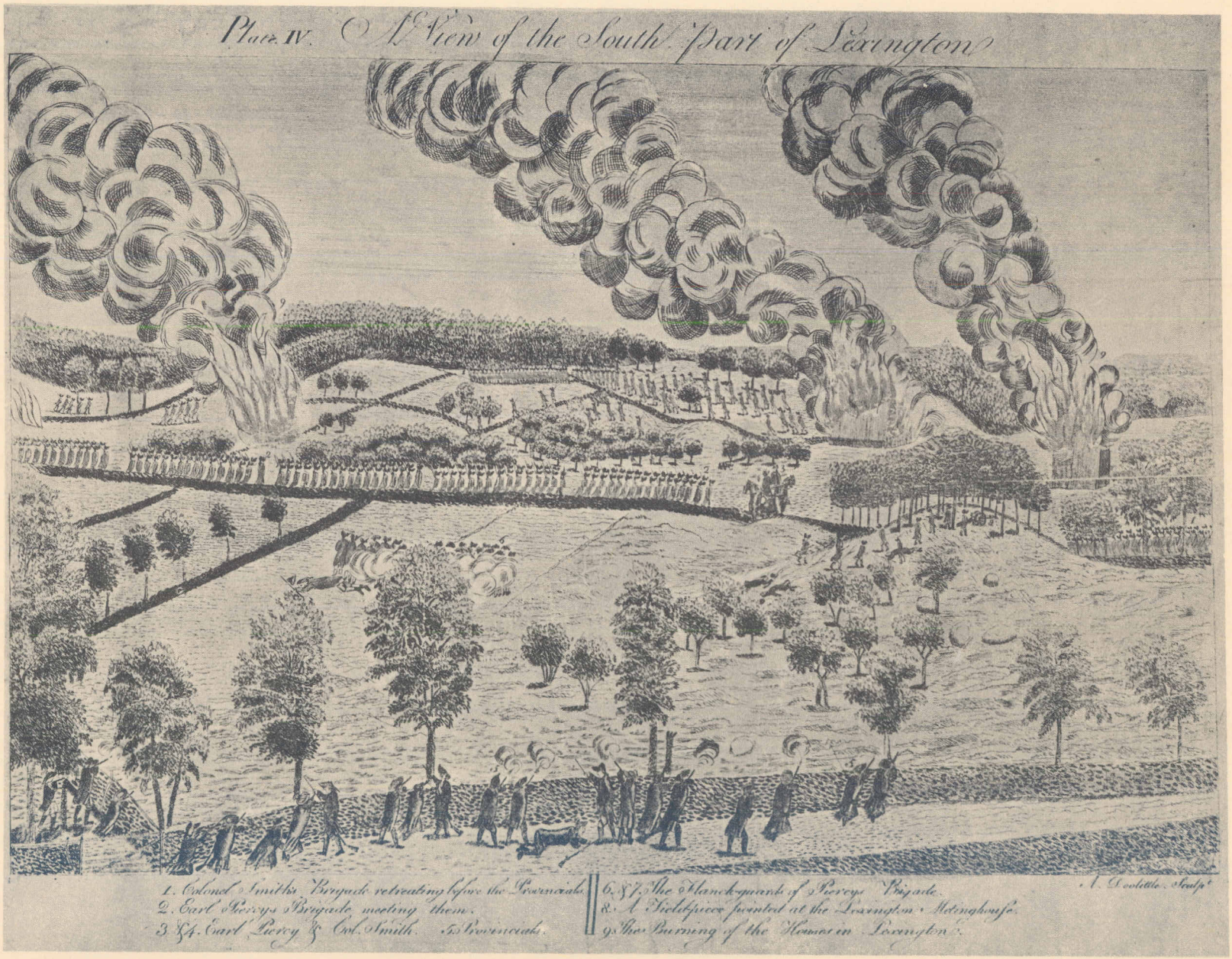
Plate III. The Engagement at the North Bridge in Concord.



1 The Detachment of the Regulars who fired first on the Provincials at the Bridge

2. The Provincials headed by Colonel Robinson & Major Buttrick. 3 The Bridge

A. Doolittle Sculp.


Plate IV. A View of the South Part of Lexington
1. Colonel Smiths Brigade retreating before the Provincials.
2. Earl Piercys Brigade meeting them.
3 & 4. Earl Piercy & Col. Smith. 5 Provincials.
6. & 7. The Flank-guards of Piercys Brigade.
8. A Fieldpiece mounted at the Lexington Meetinghouse.
9. The Burning of the Houses in Lexington.
A. Doolittle. Sculp.



#1 - Lexington Green. The line of the Minute Men, drawn up at daybreak to face the British on the 19th of April, 1775, began near the inscribed boulder at the right and extended toward the Revolutionary Monument, on the rise of ground to the left. The road over which the British continued their march to Concord, after the skirmish on the Green, shows up to the right beyond the Monument.



#2 - Buckman Tavern, facing Lexington Green, was scarred by British bullets on the 19th of April, 1775. Earlier, members of Captain Parker's company had gathered here upon receiving news of the British march. Later, two British soldiers wounded during the afternoon's retreat were carried inside and one of them died here.

LIBRARY



#3 - Wright's Tavern borders on Concord's public square and is also beside the site of the meetinghouse, where the Provincial Congress assembled in October, 1774, and again in March, 1775. Committees from the Congress, which "prepared the way for the War of the Revolution," met in the little inn. On the 19th of April, 1775, it served first as a gathering place for the Minute Men and Militia, and was then occupied by the British after their entry into the town.



#4 - Replica of the North Bridge, Concord, as rebuilt in 1956 by the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The famous Minute Man Statue by Daniel Chester French, unveiled in 1875, appears beyond the span.



#5 - The Minute Man Statue at the North Bridge, Concord, from an old photograph taken about 1890. The first stanza of Emerson's "Concord Hymn" is inscribed on the front face of the granite base.



#6 - The North Bridge Battleground, Concord, about 1890. The Concord Monument, in the foreground, was dedicated in 1837. To the left, beside the stone wall, the stone posts and chains enclose the grave of the two British soldiers who fell nearby. The renowned Minute Man Statue shows beyond the bridge, built in 1888 and washed out by a flood 20 years later.



#7 - The North Bridge and Minute Man Statue, Concord, soon after their erection in 1875. The bridge, of rustic wood and with canopies, was typical of the ornate taste of the time. A section of the stone causeway that formerly carried the road from the bridge to higher ground beyond is visible beside the river, to the left of the small area enclosing the Minute Man Statue.



#8 - The Old Manse, Concord, beside the North Bridge Battleground. Emerson's grandfather built the house in 1769 and from it observed the fight at the bridge on the 19th of April, 1775. Later occupied by Hawthorne and the subject of his Mosses from an Old Manse.



#9 - The celebrated Ride of Paul Revere ended at the bars into the pasture on the right of the roadway. Revere was captured by a patrol of British horsemen in the early morning darkness of the 19th of April, 1775. The view is from a photograph for S. A. Drake, Historic Mansions and Highways around Boston, published in 1899, and is reproduced by courtesy of Little, Brown & Co.



#10 - The point of Revere's capture in the Town of Lincoln as now transformed. The memorial tablet with flagpole at the right adjoins the paved area of a large roadside stand that sells ice cream.



#11 - The Barrett Farm, two miles beyond the North Bridge in Concord, as it appeared about 1890. Military stores were concealed here by Colonel James Barrett of the Concord Militia, and four companies of British light infantry marched here on the 19th of April, 1775, to make a search for them. Several gun carriages were found and burned in front of the house.



#12 - The Barrett Farm, the farthest reach of the British march on the 19th of April, 1775, as it looks today.



#13 - The Meriam House and Meriam's Corner, Concord, where began the continuous running fight that marked the British retreat on the afternoon of the 19th of April, 1775. This view was taken soon after the tablet was set in the stone wall in 1885.



#14 - The Meriam House and Meriam's Corner today. Most of the stone walls were broken up and used for road improvement more than half a century ago.



#15 - The roadside and wall on Hardy's or Brooks Hill at the Lincoln-Concord boundary, where the Sudbury company of Captain Nathaniel Cudworth attacked the retreating British on the afternoon of the 19th of April, 1775. The road winds down the hill to Meriam's Corner in Concord.



#16 - Approach to the Bloody Angle on Old Bedford Road in Lincoln, where the Redcoats in retreat were exposed to a galling fire from the Minute Men.



#17 - The Minute Man Boulder, beside Nelson Road in Lincoln. From the cover of this rock, a Lincoln Minute Man killed two British Regulars retreating in the road. Part of a tract of 8 acres to be designated a national historic site.



#18 - Nelson Road in Lincoln. The grave of the two British soldiers killed by the marksman from the Minute Man Boulder is behind the huge rock to the left of the road. The wall on the right borders a tract of 8 acres to be saved as a national historic site.



#19 - The Bluff in Lexington. Here the British threw up a rear guard in a desperate attempt to stave off the Minute Men in hot pursuit. This view was taken not long after the stone tablet near the center of the picture was erected in 1885.



#20 - The Bluff today. A portion of it was blasted away in order to widen the modern highway. The stone tablet of 1885 is very nearly concealed behind the sign on two posts.



#21 - An abandoned section of the Battle Road east of the Bluff in Lexington. The rear guard of the fleeing British was thrown up on the elevation, now heavily wooded, at the right.



#22 - The Muzzey House, just west of the Bluff in Lexington. Built about 1743, it was the home of John Muzzey and his son, Isaac, both of whom faced the British on Lexington Green. Isaac was one of the eight Minute Men killed.



#23 - An abandoned section of the Battle Road on the north side of Fiske Hill in Lexington. A state highway over this section was re-routed more than 30 years ago.



#24 - The abandoned Battle Road on the eastern slope of Fiske Hill. The crudely inscribed boulder in the center identifies the approximate location of the grave of British soldiers slain or fatally wounded in the fight on the hill during the afternoon of the 19th of April, 1775.



#24 - The abandoned Battle Road on the eastern slope of Fiske Hill. The crudely inscribed boulder in the center identifies the approximate location of the grave of British soldiers slain or fatally wounded in the fight on the hill during the afternoon of the 19th of April, 1775.