

CERCLA # 407700

**RESULTS OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON THE
THOMAS NELSON FARM SITE (19-MD-347/HA.6)
IN HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE,
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS**

Prepared for

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Pursuant to Public Law 102-488-October 24, 1992, 106STAT.3135, a 3.082-acre parcel of land within the western portion of Hanscom Air Force Base (HAFB) was transferred to Minute Man National Park (MIMA). The parcel is depicted on a map entitled "Boundary Map NARO-406-20015C" dated June 1991. The parcel, located between a wetland area to the east and Airport road to the west, had not been included in a previous specialized archeological survey of HAFB (Donohue 2007). The area was considered to have high potential for battlefield debris as well as high potential for prehistoric and historic archeological resources. Given security concerns for the base, a fence was proposed to separate the transferred MIMA parcel from HAFB. Prior to the property transfer a specialized archeological survey was conducted on the parcel that included documentary research, metal detector and magnetometer surveys, and an archeological field investigation in areas of prehistoric and historic archeological potential.

Documentary research for the specialized archeological survey revealed that the area under study or a significant section of it may hold an association with the Thomas Nelson, Sr. (also referred to as the Tabitha Nelson) Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6). It was determined that environmental features and vestiges of historic land use practices may still exist within both the parcel being transferred to MIMA and HAFB. These landscape features may be significant as they can provide information important to an understanding of activities and events associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775. As the boundaries of the eighteenth-century Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) were not known, it was recommended that additional documentary research be conducted to clarify its present-day boundaries and see if features of the farmstead associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 remain in HAFB (Donohue 2007).

In 2009, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) contracted with John Milner Associates, Inc. to conduct the recommended investigation. The survey consisted of documentary research into primary and secondary sources and a field walkover at both HAFB and MIMA. As a result of the survey four landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6), one landscape feature belonging to either Nelson or his neighbor, and two that post date Nelson's farm have been identified in HAFB. Within the parcel transferred to MIMA, 10 landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6), one landscape feature suspected to belong to either Nelson or his neighbor, and two that post date Nelson's farm been identified.

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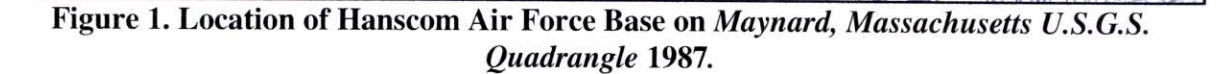
1.0 INTRODUCTION

As a result of an update of the 1996 Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) (Earth Tech 1996) for Hanscom Air Force Base (HAFB), several priority recommendations were identified (TN & Associates, Inc. and Timelines, Inc. 2001) (Figure 1). One recommendation, the result of an intensive (locational survey) at the base, noted that battlefield debris, such as muskets balls, gun flints, buttons, etc. associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 “may still exist within and beyond the confines of the areas tested during the survey” in isolated pockets (Abell et al. 1998). The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) requested a specialized archeological survey consisting of a metal-detector survey followed by field excavation to be conducted in areas with potential for battlefield debris. The survey would focus on resources associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 in accordance with the primary federal laws governing protection of cultural resources including: the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA); Executive Order (EO) 11593; *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment*; and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7065, *Cultural Resource Management*. The survey was also conducted in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Section 26-27c, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71), and MEPA (301 CMR 11).

AFCEE contracted TN & Associates, who subcontracted with Timelines, Inc. (now John Milner Associates, Inc. [JMA]) to conduct the specialized archeological survey. As a result of the metal detector survey, 12 artifacts that are believed to be related to the battle were recovered from an area along the southern perimeter of the base (referred to as Area 31) that lay in close proximity to Battle Road (Figure 2). The battle-related artifacts were recovered from three loci that may have been associated with former activity areas (Figure 3). In order to determine if activity areas were present, a magnetic field gradient (hereafter magnetometer) survey was conducted resulting in the recovery of six additional artifacts, all believed to be from the period under study.

Pursuant to Public Law 102-488-October 24, 1992, 106STAT.3135, a 3.082-acre parcel of land within the western portion of HAFB was transferred to Minute Man National Park (MIMA). The parcel is depicted on a map entitled “Boundary Map NARO-406-20015C” dated June 1991. The parcel, located between a wetland area to the east and Airport road to the west, had not been included in the specialized archeological survey. The area was considered to have high potential for battlefield debris as well as high potential for prehistoric and historic archeological resources. Given security concerns for the base, a fence was proposed to separate the transferred MIMA parcel from HAFB (Figure 4). Prior to the property transfer a comparable specialized archeological survey was conducted on that parcel. In addition to the metal detector and magnetometer survey the field investigation included the excavation of shovel test pits in areas of prehistoric and historic archeological potential and at the proposed locations of fence post (Figure 5).

While no further battle-related artifacts were recovered, documentary research revealed that the area under study or a significant section of it may hold an association with the Thomas Nelson, Sr. (also referred to as the Tabitha Nelson) Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6). It was determined that environmental features and vestiges of historic land use practices may still exist within both the parcel being transferred to MIMA and HAFB. These landscape features may be significant as they can provide information important to an understanding of activities and events associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775. As the boundaries of the eighteenth-century Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) were not known, it was recommended that additional documentary research be conducted to clarify its present-day boundaries and see if features of the farmstead associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 remain in HAFB. In 2009, AFCEE contracted with JMA to conduct the recommended research (Figure 6). The following report presents the results of that effort.



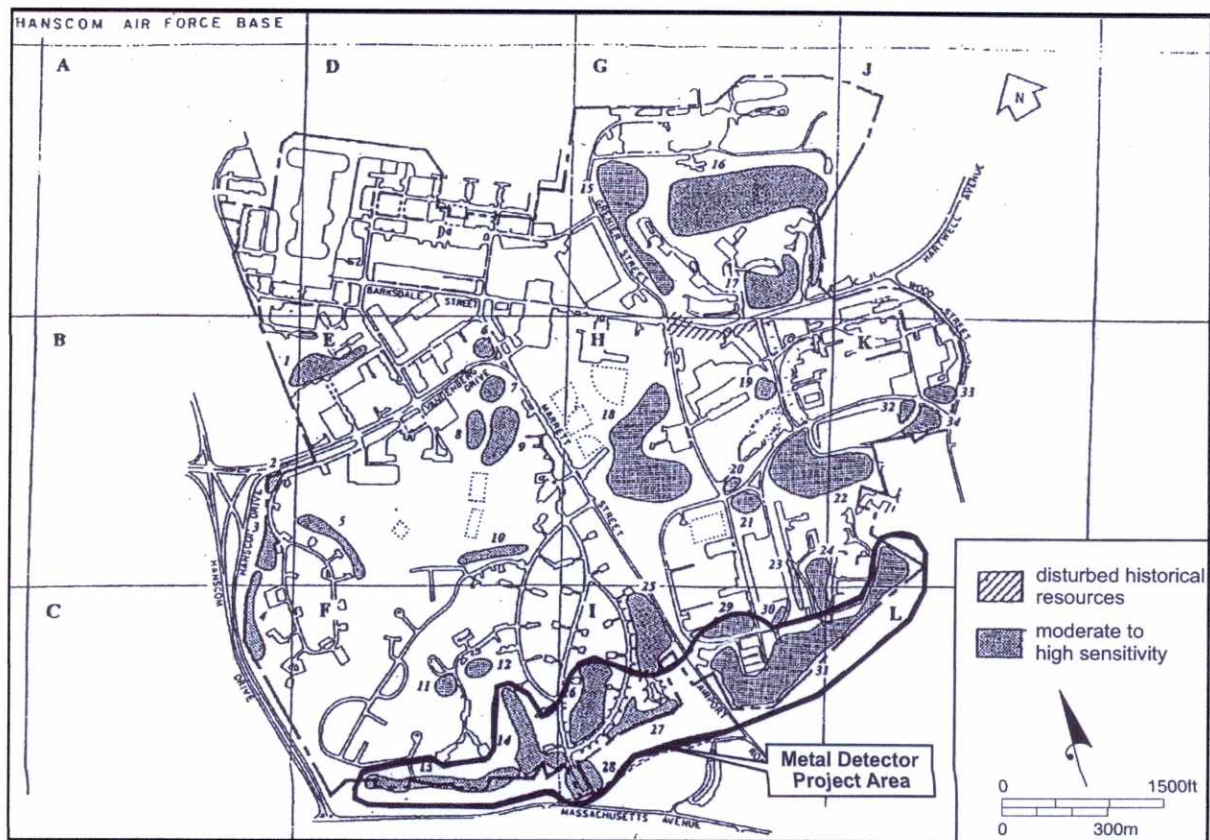
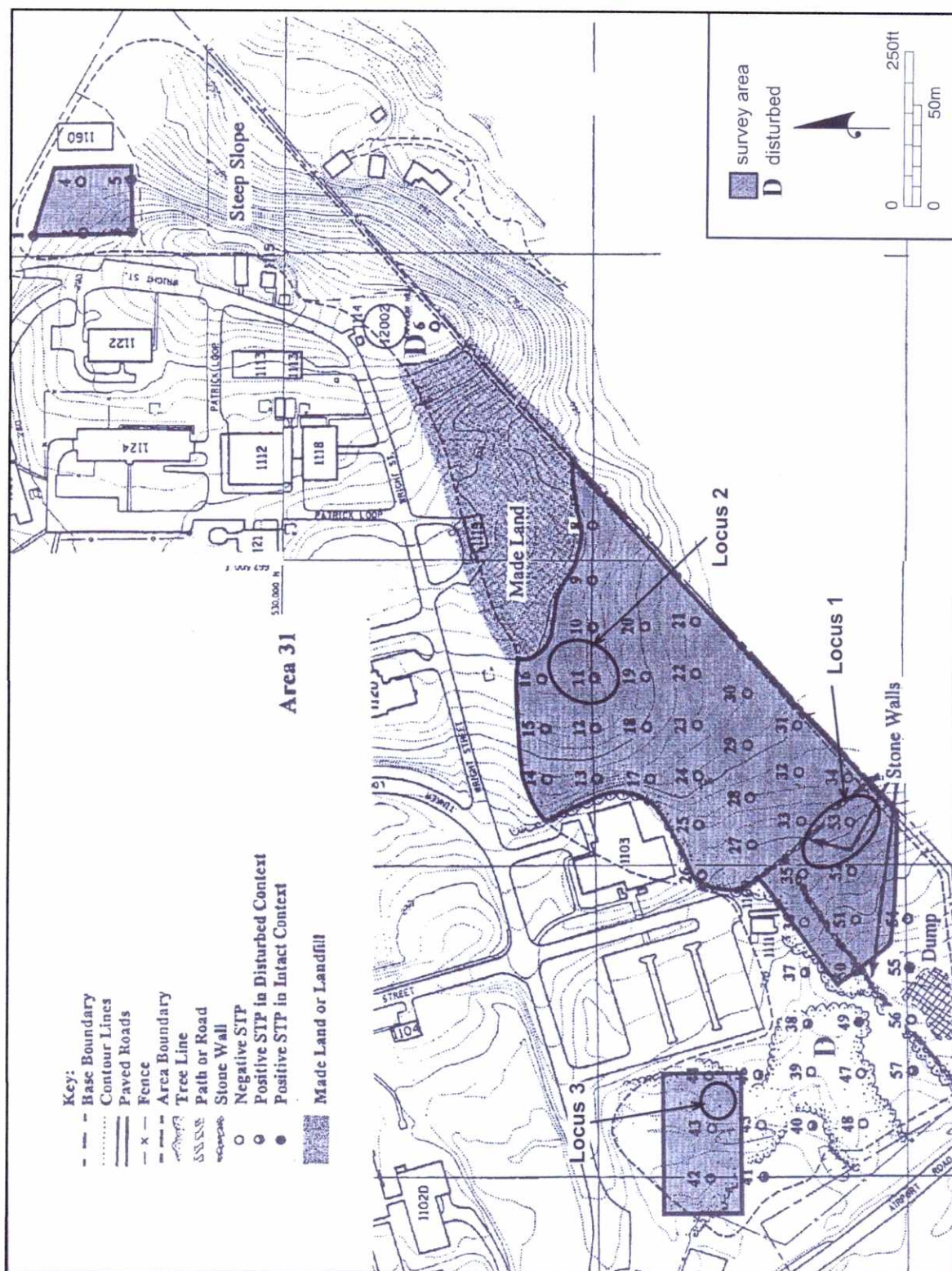
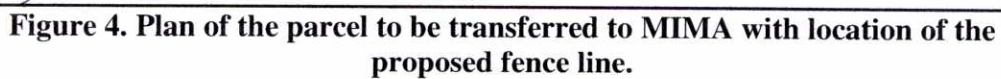
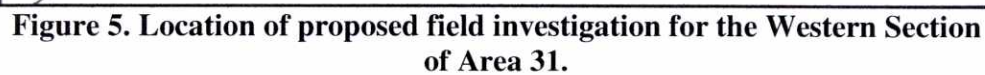


Figure 2. Location of the 34 areas of archeological potential within Hanscom Air Force Base metal detector project area circled (King et al. 1992).







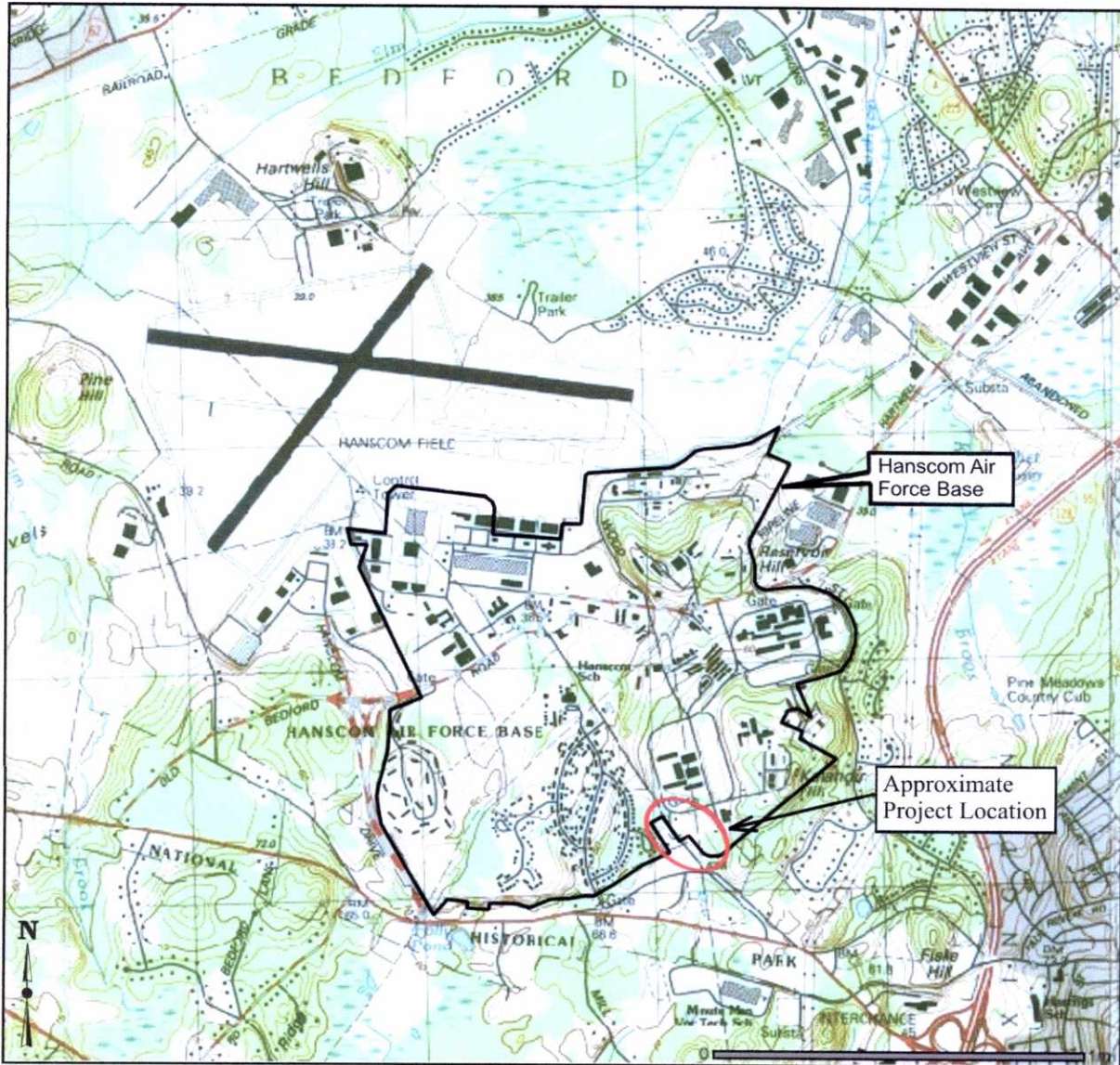


Figure 6. Location of the Thomas Nelson Farm project area on Maynard, Massachusetts U.S.G.S Quadrangle 1987.

2.0 RESULTS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

2.1 HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT MIMA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

MIMA was established in 1959 to commemorate the events of April 19, 1775. Considerable research into primary and secondary sources that recount the events of April 19, 1775 was conducted by Douglas B. Sabin, a staff historian for MIMA. Sabin found many secondary sources to be either inaccurate in certain details, descriptive without bibliographic reference, or subject to the author's bias. Depositions taken from both British and American soldiers were for the most part subjective and open to various interpretations. Sabin concluded that there is no objective account of the entire battle (Sabin 1985). Even today's militia companies, which have done considerable research on the battle, and recent accounts of the battle (such as Fisher 1994) have little specific information about the day's activities (Historians of the Council of Minute Men 1977).

A four volume report (Towle and MacMahon 1987, 1986a, 1986b and 1986c) documents three years of work analyzing collections and evaluating site interpretation for archeological surveys conducted within the park from 1963 to 1986. Within that report, the surveyed area is divided into five zones (the North Bridge Area, the Wayside, the Virginia Road Area, the Nelson Road Area, and the Fiske Hill Area) and the archeological investigations within these zones were site-specific and designed to investigate the 1775 landscape. The Nelson Road Area is most closely associated with the area investigated within HAFB. Archeological investigations pertinent to this report include the Tabitha Nelson site, also known as the Thomas Nelson, Sr. site (the report cites the Tabitha Nelson site as she lived there in 1775); the Thomas Nelson, Jr. site; and Site 24, possibly associated with Christopher Mudgin's homestead and/or Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s homestead (Figure 7) (Towle and MacMahon 1986b).

The archeological investigations relied on site-specific documentary research conducted by Robert Ronsheim (1968) and then reassessed by Joyce Malcolm (1985). Thomas Sr. had purchased 30 acres with a house and barn along Concord Road (also Country Road, Bay Road, Battle Road, Nelson Road) in 1724/25 from Samuel Ames. The house and barn appear to have been on the property as early as 1716 when Philip Goodwin conveyed a 30-acre parcel to John Edwards. After Thomas Sr. died in 1770, part of his property, which included the house and barn, went to his daughter Tabitha. After Tabitha died in 1778, her brother, Thomas Nelson Jr., sold her house to his son-in-law Samuel Hastings. At that time the deed implied that Tabitha's house had been moved and was attached to Thomas Jr.'s house. In 1779 Thomas Jr. quitclaimed eight acres of Tabitha's property, with no mention of a building on the property, to his brother Josiah.

Various archeological surveys were conducted within the Nelson Road area in the 1960s. In 1966 MIMA archeologist Leland Abel identified the ruins of Tabitha's/Thomas Sr.'s house "on a low mound at a bend in the road" (Towle and McMahon 1986b). David Snow, then a graduate at Brandeis University, conducted an archeological survey at the suspected location of Tabitha's house site in 1968 (Figure 8). While Snow attempted to search for evidence of the house, barn, and other outbuildings/cultural features, he only uncovered a section of a stone cellar and a stone culvert in the vicinity of a low granite outcrop adjacent to present-day Airport Road (Figure 8, #s 10 and 9, respectively). Snow identified two features. Feature 1 was an eight-foot long culvert constructed of two parallel rows of stone approximately 10 to 12 inches apart that was covered by more stones; the culvert was filled with sterile dirt. Feature 2 consisted of two intersecting stone walls, partially subsurface, of a rectangular structure that could be the cellar of the Nelson Sr. house. It appeared that the culvert drained the house or the area around it into a swamp to

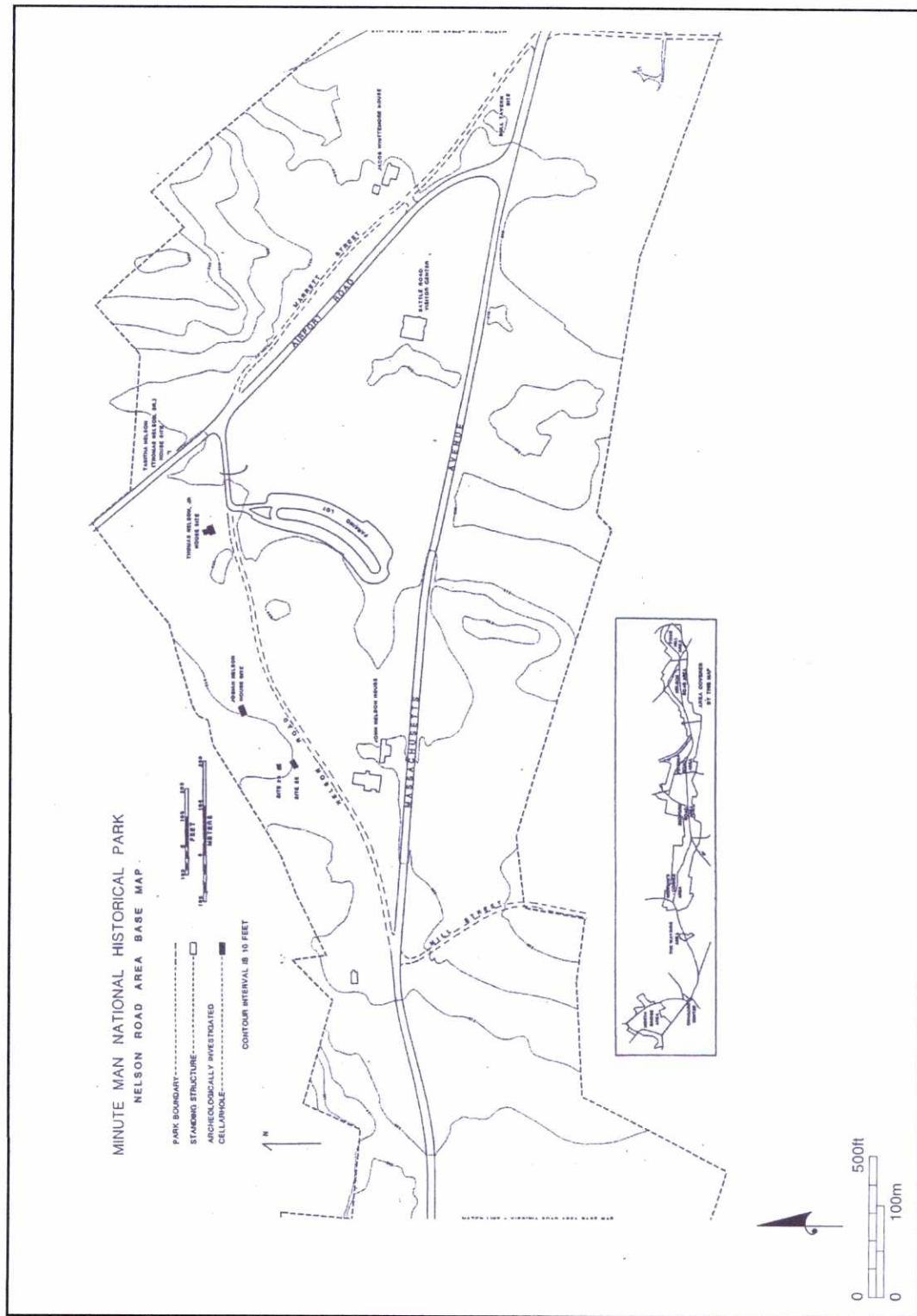


Figure 7. Base map of archeological sites along Nelson Road Area (Towle and MacMahon 1987).

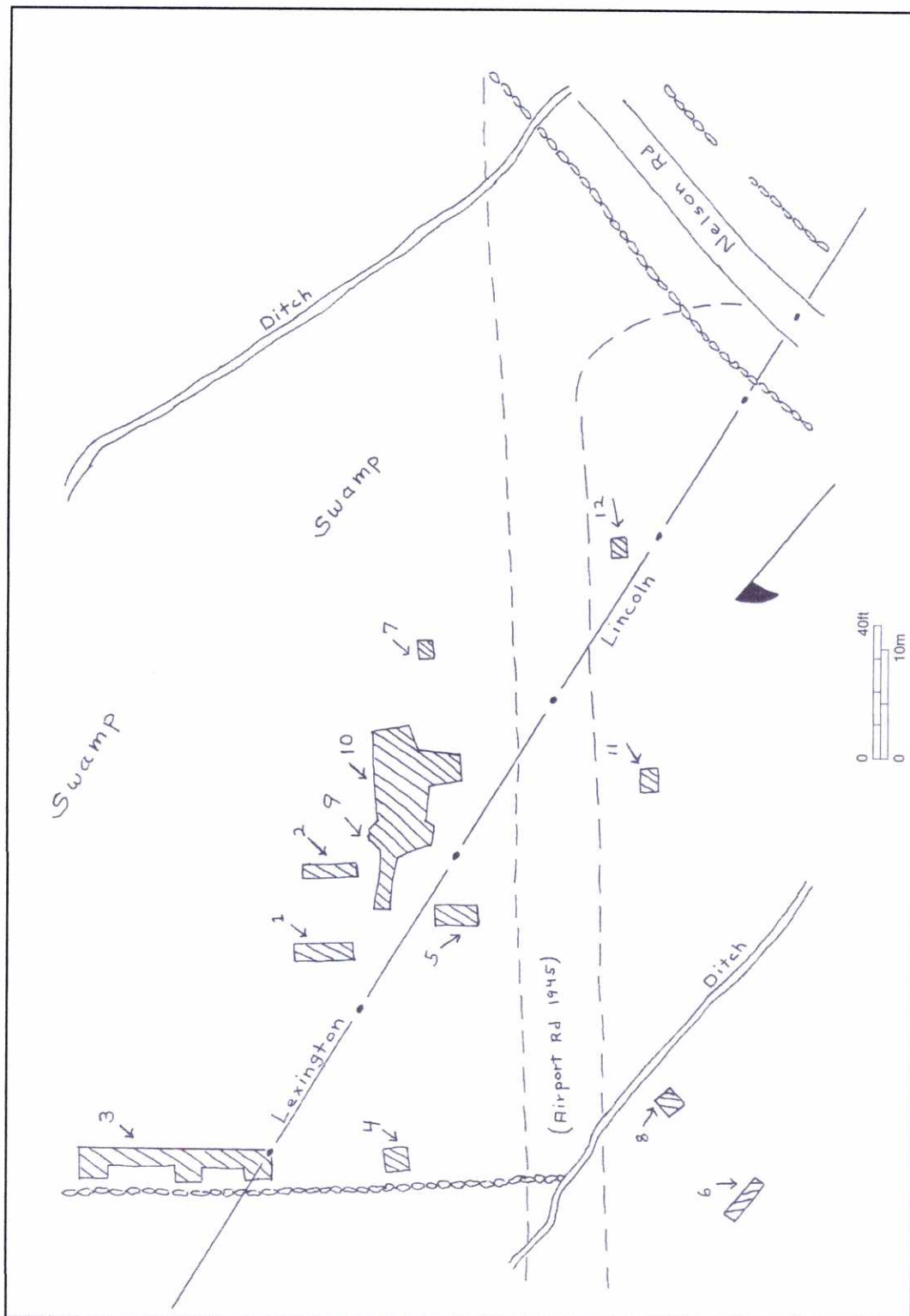


Figure 8. Archeological base map for 1968 survey at Tabitha Nelson's house site (Towle and MacMahon 1986).

the southeast. While Snow recovered eighteenth-century artifacts from the area, they were few in number, not from a primary deposit, and were recovered from either fill or a disturbed context. In his final analysis Snow felt that both features had witnessed considerable disturbance from the construction of adjacent Airport Road in 1946 and later twentieth century construction of a utility cable on eastern side of Airport Road (Snow 1973).

In an attempt to locate the Nelson barn, Snow excavated a 60-ft trench along the south side of an east-west oriented stonewall purported to be along a boundary line that divided Tabitha's property holdings in 1779 (Figure 8, #3). No structural evidence of the barn was revealed and only twentieth century trash was recovered. Unfortunately Snow's report provided an incomplete record of the excavations; it lacked a discussion of site stratigraphy, the types of material collected, methods of artifact recovery, and horizontal excavation control. In fact no one knows exactly where the former excavations took place (McMahon 1986b).

2.2 ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT HAFB IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Archeological Reconnaissance Survey (1992)

As a result of an archeological reconnaissance survey consisting of extensive background research, a walkover survey, and limited subsurface testing, 34 areas of moderate to high potential for archeological resources were identified within HAFB. The survey noted that while there is considerable disturbance along the southern boundary of the base related to "construction of residential buildings, roadways and recreational areas" as well as sand and gravel activities, there are also "isolated areas of undisturbed soils" (King et al. 1992). The survey concluded that as the southern boundary of the base, adjacent to MIMA, was "within the April 19, 1775 battlefield area" it "may have greater historical importance" (King et al. 1992). Specifically, sites associated with the events of that day, including Bloody Angle, Nelson's Boulders, and Parker's Revenge may be located within the southern boundary of HAFB.

Archeological Intensive (Locational) Survey (1998)

In 1998 an archeological intensive (locational) survey was conducted at HAFB in the 34 areas designated as having moderate to high potential for archeological resources (Abell et al. 1998). The testing methodology for the survey consisted of the excavation of 40 x 40 cm shovel test pits (STPs) at 25-m intervals. As a result of that survey, "no evidence of military engagement between the British Army and the Colonial Militia was encountered; not even in those parts of Hanscom AFB which border Minute Man National Historic Park: UTM Section F (Areas 13 and 14); UTM Section I (Areas 27 and 28); and UTM Section L (Area 31). However, archaeological manifestations of the skirmishes fought that day, such as burials of British soldiers and battlefield debris (musket balls, gun flints, buttons, etc.) may still exist at Hanscom AFB in isolated pockets of preservation. Battlefields represent a unique type of archaeological site. The location of burials or battlefield debris would require a more intensive form of archaeological survey; one that employed detection technology such as ground-penetrating radar for burials and metal detectors for the ballistic evidence" (Abell et al. 1998).

2.3 ARCHEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT HAFB IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

From 2003 to 2005 a multi-phased specialized archeological survey was conducted at HAFB (Donohue 2007). The survey included detailed documentary research, a metal detector survey with ground truthing, two magnetometer surveys with selective ground truthing, and a field investigation in areas of prehistoric and historic archeological potential.

Results of the Documentary Research

Documentary research for the specialized archeological survey focused on primary and secondary sources relevant to understanding the events that occurred the day of the Battle of April 19, 1775. Following is a summary of that research that is pertinent to this project (Donohue 2007).

Late in the evening of April 18, 1775 British troops met on the shore of Cambridge Marsh to begin a march to Concord in order to capture the military supplies of the Colonialists. Following a skirmish with Captain John Parker's Minute Men at Lexington Common, the British troops proceeded to Concord to complete their mission. By the time they were ready to return to Boston, Minute Men from a number of communities had gathered outside of Concord as well as at various points along what was to become known as Battle Road to fight the enemy.

Following an ambush at Meriam's Corner the British were caught in a crossfire and their losses were so heavy that the point where the road made a sharp turn after Tanner's (also called Mill) Brook became known as Bloody Angle. At this point the grenadiers were on the road and the light infantry were traveling through the back yards and fields that parallel the road. While the Minute Men were concentrating on the troops on the road, the British flankers proved successful closing in on unsuspecting Minute Men who were hiding behind the trees and firing towards the road.

Following Bloody Angle, the road passed the houses of Sgt. John and Sgt. Samuel Hartwell. As the British passed Sgt. Samuel's house, they were hurrying and firing into the house. Further along the road by Josiah Nelson's house there were many large boulders (now known as Nelson's Boulders) that were used for cover by the Minute Men as they shot at the British. Past the Nelson's there were two fields on the north side of the road. The first was "meadowy and scarred with trenches and rough mounds of grass; the second was strewn with huge boulders" (Hersey 1930). William Thorning, a 17 year old Minute Man from Lincoln who lived just to the west of Josiah Nelson's house is said to have hid in one of several ditches in the area and fired at the British who were marching along the road. After being fired upon, Thorning ran from the ditch into the woods where he was fired at from a flanking party that was a hundred feet behind him. Thorning hid in another ditch until the flankers passed. He then ran into the rocky field and "took his stand behind the jutting corner of a huge boulder which amply protected his body" (Hersey 1930) where he fired several shots and killed two of the British soldiers.

Approaching the Lincoln/Lexington line the terrain to the south was low and wet while to the north there was a pasture studded with large granite boulders. Beyond the pasture was a steep rocky hillside, part of a 5-acre woodlot belonging to Tabitha Nelson. The road headed towards the hill and then veered south around it. It was here that Parker and his men waited in ambush for the British. While some of Parker's men were hidden in the woods on the south of the road, others "took positions in the granite-strewn pasture on the north side of the road just within the town of Lincoln" (Chase 1967). When the British reached this point in the road, the flankers were busy fighting the Minute Men in the field of boulders over a little rise behind Nelson's farmyard. On the south side the right flank were splashing through the creek and climbing over a stone wall into Jacob Whittemore's field. After Parker and his men opened fire, Major Pitcairn came galloping up and led the British forces charging up the rocky hillside, driving Parker's militia to retreat away from the road to the crest of the hill (Figure 9).

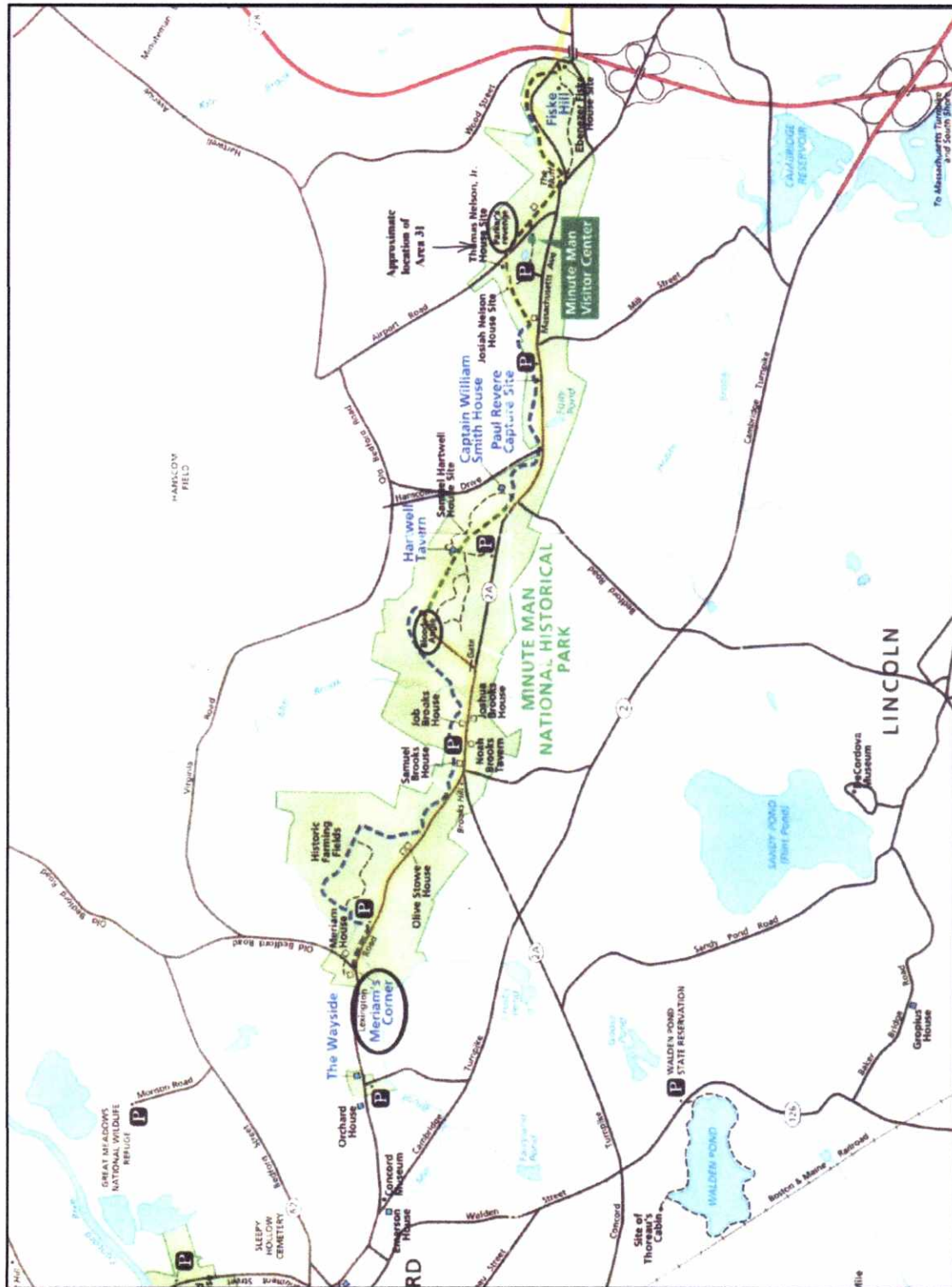


Figure 9. Location of major skirmishes along Battle Road from Meriam's Corner to Fiske Hill.

A 1902 sketch of the Nelson Road area created by George Nelson, the great grandson of Josiah Nelson, provides an interpretation of the 1775 landscape as passed down through the Nelson family (Figure 10). While most sources state that the Thorning scenario occurred to the east of Josiah Nelson's house, George Nelson depicts it to the west of Josiah's house using the name "Thornton" instead of "Thorning." The boulder that Thorning is supposed to have fired from is located adjacent to Battle Road (labeled "old road" in the sketch). After analyzing all the information on this episode, MIMA historian Douglas Sabin (1985) did not feel that the exact location of the boulder has been definitively identified. Indeed given the changes in the landscape to the north of Josiah Nelson's house site with the construction of HAFB, one does not know if there was a field of boulders there in 1775.

Results of the Metal Detector Survey (2003)

A metal detector survey was conducted along the southern boundary of HAFB by Mr. Alvin Lynn with the assistance of Timelines' archeologists in October of 2003 in the six areas (Areas 13, 14, 26, 27, 28, and 31) identified in the 1998 (Abell et al) report as having potential for battle-related debris. The basic strategy for the metal detector survey included three phases: orientation (using a defined grid to precisely identify the location of each find), inventory (including the survey, artifact recovery and artifact recording), and inventory evaluation (determining if the recovered artifact represents the period under study).

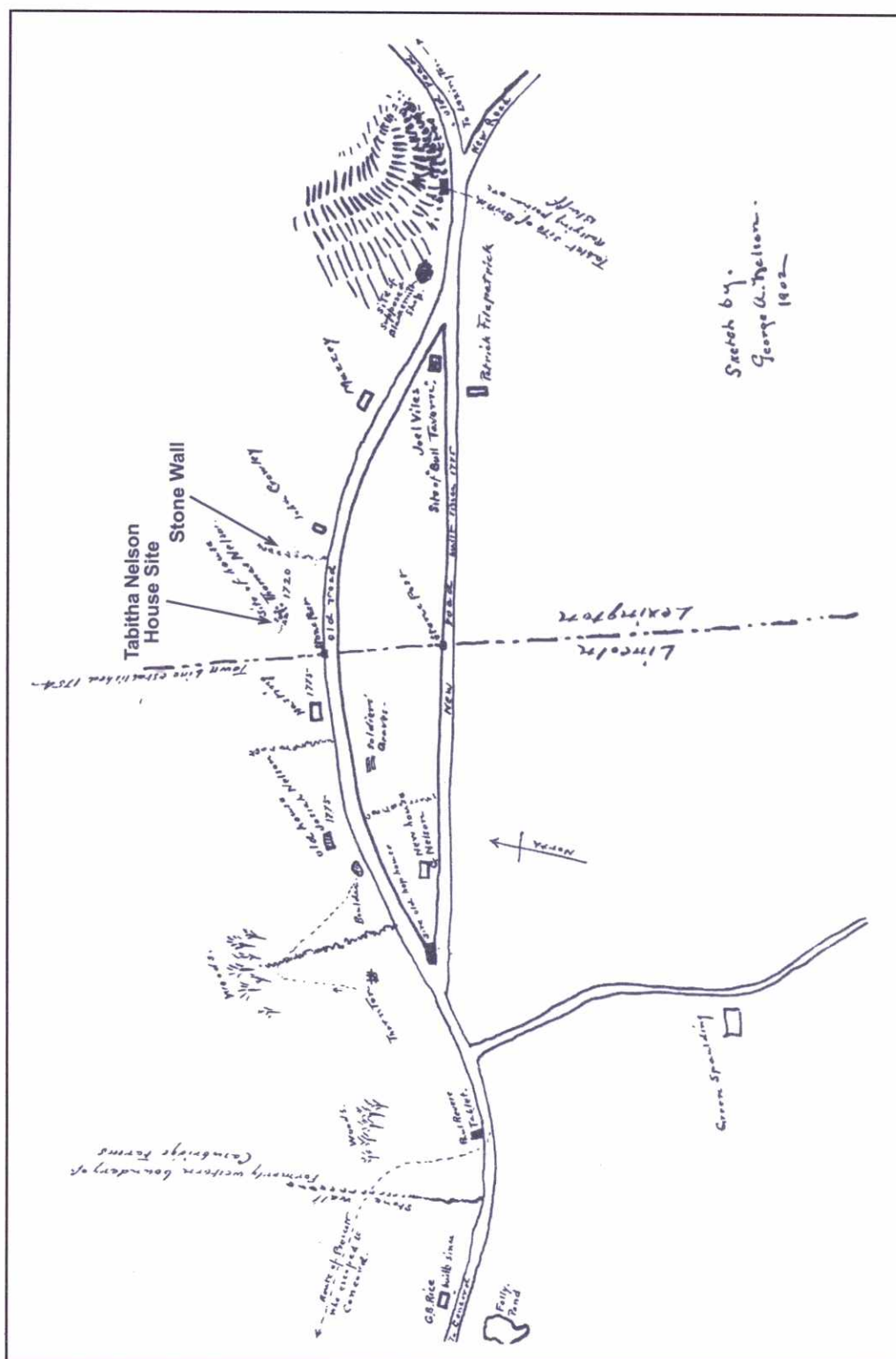
As a result of the survey, 12 historic artifacts were recovered from three loci within Area 31. Six of the artifacts (three musket balls, a musket ball bullet mold, a gun fitting, and a cuprous shoe buckle) appear to have a clear association with the Battle of April 19, 1775 and two of the artifacts (an oxen shoe and a cuprous ring) may be associated with the battle. Area 31, comprising 14.3 acres, includes a portion of Katahdin Hill, which is the highest point on HAFB. The area is lightly wooded with granite outcrops, erratics and surface rocks. The parcel slopes down towards a wetland to the west and is crossed by two intersecting stone walls. It is bounded by a chain link fence separating the parcel from MIMA to the south, buildings and a roadway to the north, a chain link fence to the east, and an unnamed stream to the west.

Area 31 is located just to the north of the location identified as Parker's Ambush on Battle Road. Documentary research revealed that over 100 Lexington Minute Men under the command of Captain John Parker waited approximately four hours to ambush the British on their return from Concord. As the area associated with Parker's Ambush by Battle Road is rather steep it seems reasonable that even though the area surveyed in Area 31 is somewhat removed from Battle Road, the location of the field investigation may have served as a waiting area and the three loci may have been associated with former activity areas.

Results of the Magnetometer Survey (2004)

In an effort to determine if the three loci identified in the metal detector survey were associated with activity areas, Dr. Lewis Somers with support from Timelines' archeologists conducted a magnetometer survey in Area 31 in November of 2004. After setting out a 20 x 20 m grid across Area 31, it was decided to concentrate on surveying blocks that were located in close proximity to the three loci identified in the metal detector survey in order to complete the survey in the time allotted. Following the survey a set of maps was processed for all magnetic features and artifacts within each of the three areas.

While the location of activity areas was not identified, the locations of both small and large iron artifacts were mapped and selected ground-truthing occurred. Six metal objects were sent to conservation for



analysis. As a result only one, a fascine knife/bill hook that was located in close proximity to the gun fitting found in the metal detector survey, was considered to be from the time period under study.

Results of the Metal Detector and Magnetometer Surveys and Field Investigation (2005)

A survey comparable to the ones conducted in 2003 and 2004 in Area 31 was designed for the parcel of land that would be transferred to MIMA (hereafter the Western Section of Area 31). The survey consisted of a metal detector survey with ground truthing and a magnetometer survey with selective ground truthing. A field investigation consisting of the excavation of shovel test pits was also conducted as this was considered an area with high prehistoric and historic archeological potential. As a fence was planned to separate HAFB from MIMA, the location of fence posts was included in the field testing.

Environmental conditions in the Western Section of Area 31 were somewhat different than those of the previous survey, the wooded areas contained a considerable amount of thick brush and there were several landscaped/grassy areas. Areas with thick brush were clear-cut by JMA (formerly Timelines) personnel to facilitate the magnetometer survey. Aside from an east-west oriented stone wall that crossed the southern section of the parcel, there were no large boulders or erratics present. The parcel was irregularly shaped and bisected by a pool of water. At the time of the survey the parcel was bounded on the east by an unnamed stream and the proposed fence line, on the north by the proposed fence line, on the west by an existing chain link fence adjacent to Airport Road, and on the south by an existing chain link fence separating HAFB from MIMA.

The metal detector survey was conducted by JMA personnel Martin Dudek and Brian Lever. The survey concentrated on the lightly-wooded areas as the landscaped/grassy areas proved to contain late nineteenth-to-early-twentieth century trash within deep/plowed A soils. Only two artifacts, a pad lock and a cuprous-hinged case, were collected and sent to the conservation laboratory. Following conservation it was determined that neither artifact was associated with the time period under study.

Dr. Somers returned to conduct the magnetometer survey with support from JMA archeologists. Following the survey two types of maps were generated. The first map identified all magnetic anomalies, such as iron, that are typically associated with the strongest magnetic field gradients while the second map identified the weak magnetic data including disturbed soil anomalies, such as activity areas, that are typically associated with the weakest magnetic field gradients. On the second map the strongest magnetic anomalies had been computationally removed. As with the previous magnetometer survey, only select anomalies were ground truthed. Of particular interest on the Weak Magnetic Features Map generated by Dr. Somers was an area of rectangular features within the northwest section of the parcel, to the north of the east-west orientated stone wall. Two STPs (STP1 and STP2) were excavated in the area of the rectangular features (Figure 11). The test pits revealed a plowzone over what appeared to be intact subsoil. Evidence of the rectangular features was not discerned and they may be associated with the area's geology. Of the four artifacts that were recovered a fragment of a cut/wrought nail and a fragment of transfer-printed porcelain (1760+) may be associated with eighteenth-century residents.

Historic archeological potential was given to the southwest section of the project area as it is in close proximity to the suspected location of the Thomas Nelson Sr. Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6). While the Thomas Nelson Sr. Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) was not considered to be located within HAFB in previous archeological surveys (Abell et al. 1998; King et al. 1992) research into the archeological excavations conducted along the Nelson Road area (Towle and MacMahon 1986b) strongly suggests that some of the original 30-acre Nelson parcel is included in Area 31. Even after the transfer of the Western Section of Area 31 to MIMA, some of the Nelson farmstead may remain within the base.

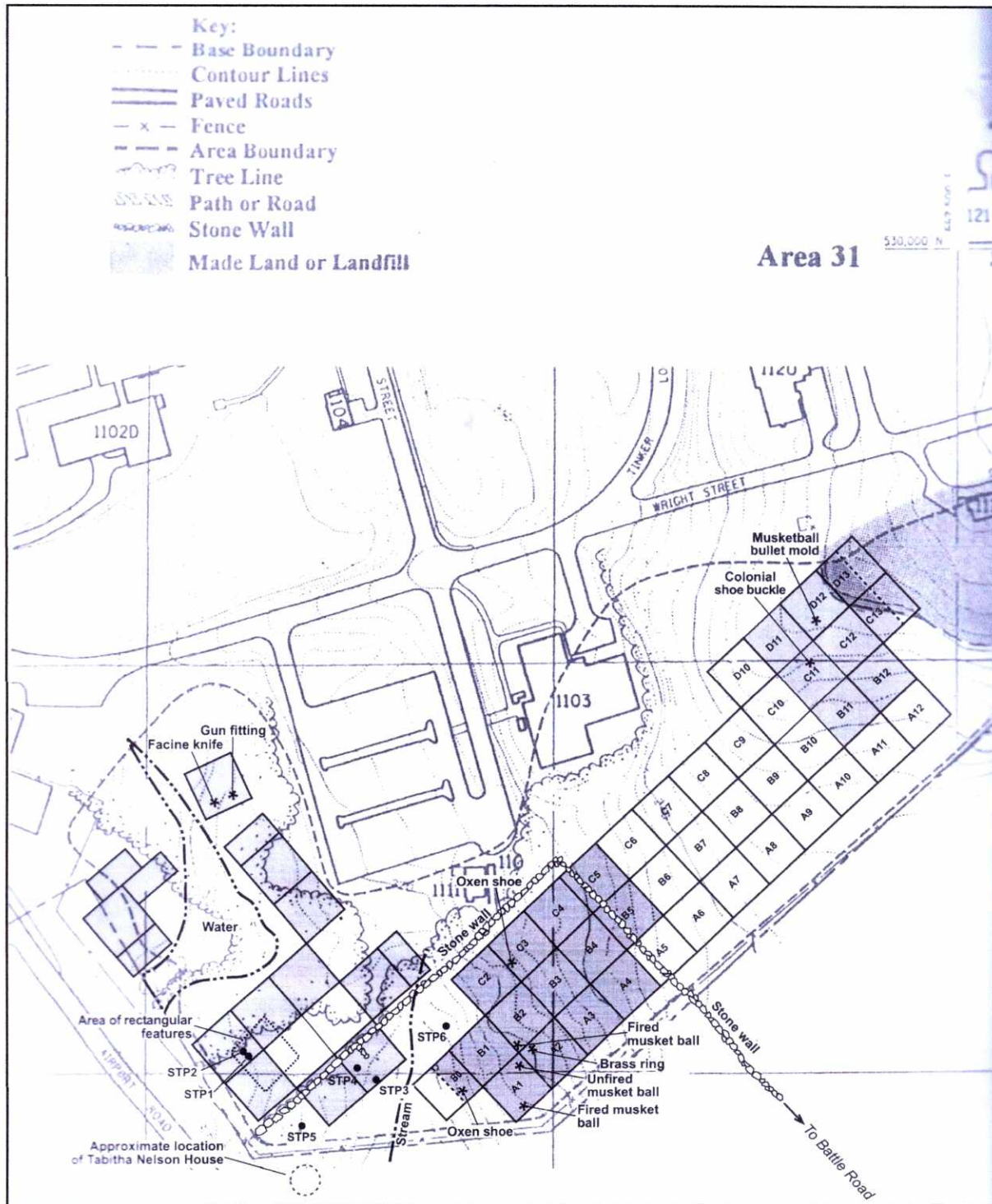


Figure 11. Base map for specialized archeological intensive survey (Donohue 2007).

Salient features of the former farm that may remain as either landscape features or archeological deposits may have been previously overlooked as the boundaries of the 30-acre parcel had not been determined. Two test pits (STP3 and STP4) were excavated to the south of the east-west oriented stone wall at the location of an intersecting 4-m long north-south oriented stone wall that may have been a foundation wall for an unrecorded structure, possibly Thomas Sr./Tabitha Nelson's barn (Figure 11). STP4 was placed 4 m from the southern end of the suspected foundation wall and STP3 was placed in a depression to the west of and adjacent to the north-south oriented wall. Each of the test pits were aborted due to the presence of a large boulder/bedrock or possible foundation rocks. It was not uncommon for seventeenth century barns to be built on a single course of unmorticed field stones that would be easily scattered at a later date if the property was cultivated (Towle and McMahon 1986b). Soils overlaying the boulders/foundation rocks appear to be fill as they were unlike other soils in the area. While STP3 yielded a mix of modern and historic materials, STP4 yielded green transfer-printed whiteware (1820+). Two other test pits (STP5 and STP6) were placed further to the south on an elevated area adjacent to an unnamed stream (Figure 11). Both of these test pits were aborted by what appeared to be boulders/bedrock. Recovered artifacts included butchered mammal bone, creamware (1760-1821), whiteware (1820+), an oyster shell and a piece of mold-blown/machine-made bottle glass. Artifacts from these two test pits may hold an association with the Nelson family due to their proximity to the suspected location of Thomas Sr.'s/Tabitha's house and barn.

Recommendations

Research conducted on the Thomas Nelson Sr. House site (19-MD-347/HA.6) revealed landscape features associated with the farm site including ditches, a field of boulders, and intersecting stone walls that likely hold an association with the Battle of April 19, 1775. The fascine knife, the subsurface rectangular features, and the concentration of architectural artifacts revealed in the magnetometer survey; the suspected location of a barn, a possible foundation wall with adjacent depression/cellar hole to the south of the east-west oriented stone wall, and field trash recovered from the high area by the unnamed stream suggest that archeological deposits associated with the Nelson Farm site may be present. If so the stonewall that extends from Battle Road (the "old road" in George Nelson's sketch [Figure 10]) may be the same stone wall that extends from the location of the interpretive sign for Parker's Ambush along Battle Road into Area 31 today. As a result of the specialized archeological survey (Donohue 2007) further documentary research was recommended to try and determine the extent of the 30-acre parcel associated with Thomas Nelson Sr.'s farm in order to clarify its present-day boundaries. The present document presents the results of the documentary research recommended in the previous specialized archeological survey (Donohue 2007).

3.0 RESULTS OF DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

In order to identify eighteen-century landscape features associated with the Nelson farmstead that may still be visible in HAFB, it is necessary to understand the early settlement of the area and how settlement practices affected the landscape. To that end documentary research was conducted in both primary and secondary sources at the Middlesex Registry of Deeds, MIMA library/research facility in Concord, Lexington Public Library, Lexington Town Hall, Lincoln Public Library, Cambridge Public Library, and HAFB.

The first two towns associated with settlement along Battle Road (also Bay, Concord, Nelson roads) were Cambridge, (first settled as New Towne) (1631) and Concord (1635). Early settlements by the coast, such as Cambridge, needed a considerable land base, which included usable meadows and land for pasturage, to support both planting and animal husbandry. The inland regions of New England provided a wilderness of inexpensive land consisting of hills, rocks, ponds, large woodlands, overgrowth and swamps that made clearing and planting a slow, labor-intensive process. While early land grants and settlement patterns were somewhat different in the two towns, the fundamentals of establishing a home in these wilderness areas, specifically using local resources to meet local needs, was very similar. A dissertation, then book by Brian Donahue (2004) centers on settlement practices in Concord with detail on Nelson's neighbors along Battle Road. Information gathered by Donahue (2004) provides the basis for this section of the report, which will be followed by a look at the seventeenth century development of Cambridge and Concord, the eighteenth century development of Lexington and Lincoln, and then the Nelson property.

3.1 SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEEN CENTURY SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

The mixed husbandry economy practiced by the early settlers to this wilderness area relied on native hay with corn and rye being important fodder crops. The transformation of the use of local waterways for the procurement of resources, ie fish, began with the construction of mill dams for the construction of grist mills and then saw mills. As large areas were too poorly drained to grow hay, draining the meadows was accomplished through an intricate system of ditches. This was done by ditching the brooks to require a regular flow with lateral ditches required to cut off seepage from the uplands, to lead springs to the main channels and to get water out of low places. If the initial ditching did not help, meadow areas were ditched again. As muck had a tendency to fill in the ditches and slow the flow of water, the ditches had to be cleaned out periodically, this was accomplished with shovels and a tool called a "ditching knife" during periods of low water in the late summer and early fall. A system of cartways was also developed in order to access the ditches to clean them. The system of ditches often ran for several miles requiring upkeep and maintenance by a number of settlers who relied on each other. The network of ditches themselves provides the only surviving record of this coordinated, though likely informal, collective enterprise. (Figure 12).

Another necessary component of this economy was the construction of dams to hold water in the winter. Road causeways also served as handy dikes for this purpose. While flooding occurred in the meadows during the spring, the farmers needed to maintain control of flowing the meadows. The flooding was quite important as it captured organic matter and nutrients and spread them as fertilizer across the meadows providing an orderly agrarian landscape where every part of the landscape was put to work producing something either directly for human use or supporting the agricultural system. The landscape was divided into an elaborate system of ways, walls, weirs, dams and ditches with pastures emerging from the woods, swamps being drained, and husbandmen searching for land that could be tilled. As a result, no household was entirely self-sufficient and the community was closely tied to the land for its economic foundation.



Figure 12. Looking south from Battle Road at Bridge Meadow (Donahue 2004).

Additionally many farmers supplemented their farming economy with income from a trade. In order for this system to function properly coordination of resources was also needed at the community level through formal covenants, town resolutions and court adjudications.

By the mid seventeenth century Battle Road passed across expanses of meadow, marsh and swamp that were interspersed with upland islands. The road was constructed to provide the shortest distance between the upland islands. Lowlands were crossed by causeways. Each type of land along the way played a distinct role in the economy that at times overlapped. Land along Battle Road was used for tillage, orchards, meadow mowing lots, pasture, and woodland.

Tillage or plow land was tightly clustered due to a preference for growing grain on well-drained soils in close proximity to the barn. While this land was easy to plow it was not particularly productive in term of crop yields. Manure was a valuable commodity to the farmer and its distribution was more efficient the closer the barn was to the area plowed. Plow land was also fenced in so that it could also be used as pasture for the cattle. As a result of these strategies the fields closest to the barn received most of the manure and grew most of the Indian corn that was used both for food by the settlers and for fodder by cows. The outer fields were mainly used for pasture for livestock and for land to grow rye as it did not require manure. The use of particular areas of a farm often changed from year to year (Figure 13).

Gardens and orchards were another important component of the landscape and were usually located in close proximity to the house or barn. Gardening normally fell under the wife's domain and was mainly for subsistence of the immediate family. While orchards were first an extension of the garden they soon became an important component of the agricultural landscape becoming larger in size and being located further from the house lot. This change in location and size followed the use of cider rather than beer as the preferred drink of farmers in the early eighteenth century.

Meadows were important as the amount of hay determined the number of cattle that could be kept, provided the bulk of the fodder for the cattle and therefore manure for the crops. By the middle of the eighteenth century most swamp land had been converted into grassy meadows. For the most part the meadows were small lots divided by ditches that not only dried the lots to allow access, but also served as fences with some having a steep bank. Yearly flooding of the meadows allowed a dispersal of nutrients that had accumulated through the year. Native meadow hay provided the primary source of grass for the first settlers. It was not until the mid eighteenth century that English hay, which was a better quality fodder crop, was grown in orchards and higher meadow ground that was not subject to flooding.

Pastureland was the most widespread category of improved land covering a broad locational spectrum ranging from cow yards beside a barn to outlying fields. The four main types of pastureland included warm, sandy land that would occasionally be plowed for rye; cold, moist meadowland; stoney, glacial till upland; and the backcountry pastureland. The move from common pasturelands to privately owned ones meant that the farmer needed from 10 to 20 acres of pasture within about one-half mile from his barn in order to maintain his core stock.

Woodland lots for the most part were small in size, scattered and remote. Early farms needed a minimum of 20 acres of woodland with many kinds of wood used for special purposes, such as oak bark for use in a tannery and charcoal for gunpowder. As time went on these lots were improved for other uses.

Control of the water supply was also important to the early settlers. Elements of water control were needed for watering stock, powering mills, accommodating fish, transporting people, and flowing meadows. Particularly relevant to the early settlers along Bay Road were flowing meadows, as discussed above, and watering cattle. A watering place was needed for cattle in every pasture (Figure 14). This was



Figure 13. A working landscape, dairy cows on rocky hillside, an orchard on a knoll below the road and river meadows in spring flood (Donahue 2004).

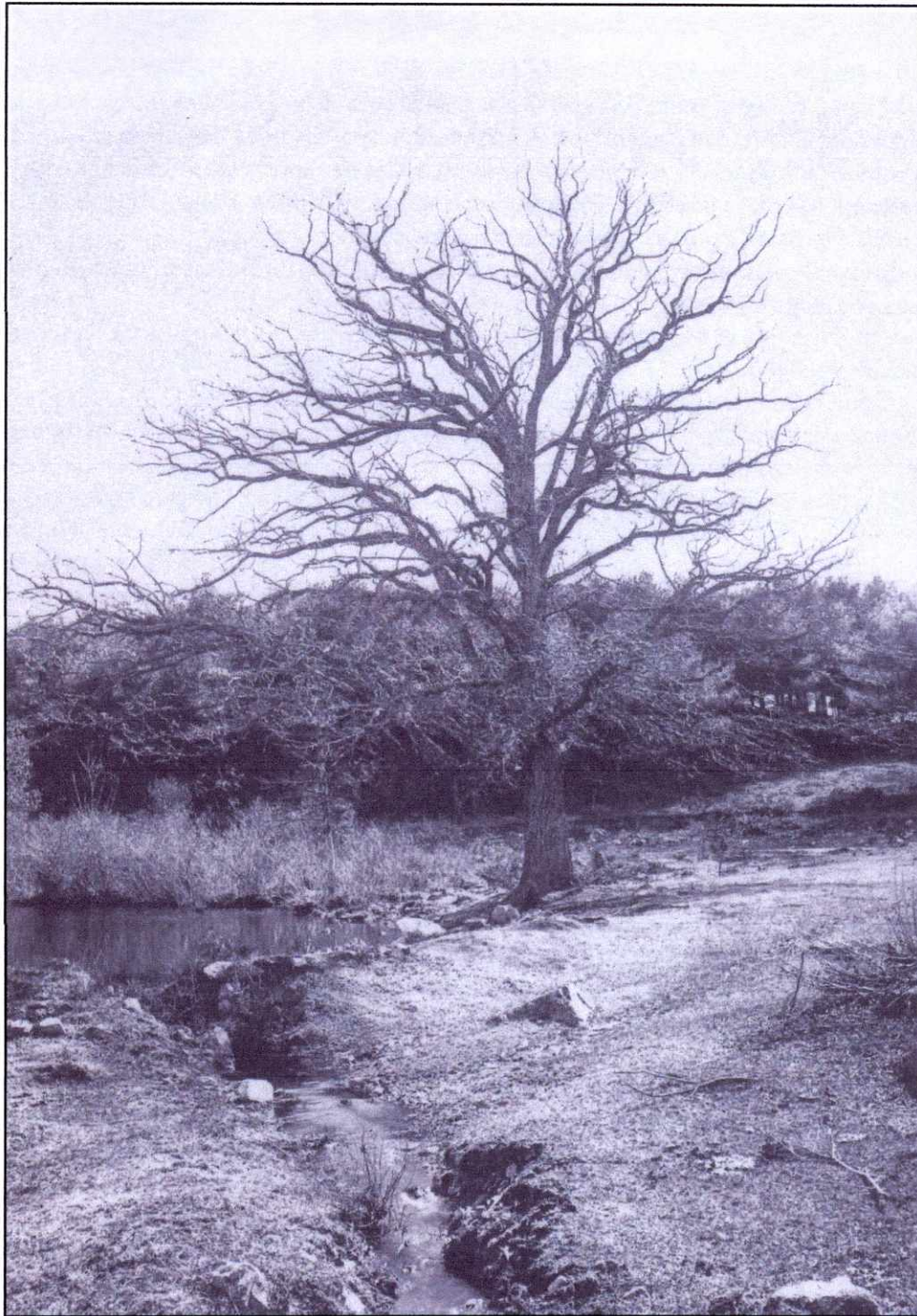


Figure 14. A small pasture watering hole with a spreading oak for shade (Donahue 2004).

particularly important in enclosed land where places to water the cattle had to be built into the infrastructure along with walls and fences. Pastures had to be laid out so that they could be bound on a stream or ditch or include a spring or small pond. These watering places were often neatly walled in with stone.

3.2 THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY SETTLEMENT OF CAMBRIDGE

In 1631 New Towne (New Towne's name was changed to Cambridge in 1638) was planned as a fortified town to provide refuge for residents of all other towns in case of an Indian attack. At that time the settlement was located in a palisaded village on the north side of the Charles River with small parcels of planting land, marshes and meadows located outside of the village. In 1635 less than a fourth of New Towne's population owned a single parcel that was greater than 10 acres in size. Grazing land and most woodland consisted of undivided parcels that were held in common. In 1636 the General Court "Agreed, that Newe Towne bounds should run eight myles into the country from their meeting howse" and was known as the "8-mile grant" (Paige 1897). This still left a large tract of unimproved land separating Cambridge from Concord.

The first grant of land in this outlying area was to Richard Harlackendin of England on January 2, 1636/7. He was granted 600 acres of upland and meadow "at the place called Vine Brook, in the midway between Newtowne and Concord" (Paige 1897) an area that became the center of Lexington. The grant was conditional on someone building and improving the land by the following summer and that Harlackendin would come over from England within three years. He didn't comply and on April 2, 1638 the land was given to his brother, Roger. After Roger died, his widow married Herbert Pelham and the property was eventually left to their son, Edward (Paige 1879). Other large grants near the 8-mile line included 350 acres to John Bridge and 600 acres to Edward Goffe. Most of the original proprietors of the large grants, which were located in present-day Lexington Village, lived in Cambridge and cultivated land in the Farm. Large tracts developed into farms given to the proprietor's children. By 1645, most of East Lexington within the 8-mile grant consisted of small farms (Staples 1905).

In 1641 the unimproved land between Cambridge and Concord was given to Cambridge as part of a larger land transaction known as the "Shawshin Grant" with the stipulation that a village of at least 10 families settle in the area within three years. Upon examining the land it was noted that the area "between the side of the Concord line and the head of the Cambridge [8-mile] line [have] but littell medow, & the upland [is] of little worth" (MacLean 1987). In 1644 the General Court rescinded the obligation to settle a village, but stipulated that "the land between them [Cambridge] and Concord is granted them, p[ro]vided the church and p[re]sent elders continue at Cambridge" (MacLean 1987). As a result of the 1644 negotiation, Cambridge extended from Dedham to the Merrimac River. In 1647 Gregory Stone received 200 acres beyond the 8-mile line, mostly in present-day Lincoln and in 1652 he received another 100 acres adjacent to his first grant. In 1665 Gregory gave 28 acres and an existing house to his son David; it's been speculated that the house may have been constructed as early as 1654 (MacLean 1987). North of and between the Bulkeley and Stone grants there were many acres between the 8-mile line and Concord that remained common land to residents of Cambridge and was used to obtain hay (Hudson 1913).

It was not until 1683 that Cambridge decided to divide up the lands between the 8-mile line and Concord. At that time David Fiske was hired to survey the remote tract and a committee was formed to assign lots. The property was divided into nine squadrants each of which were about 80 rods (one-fourth mile) wide. The lines dividing the squadrants were called rangeways and ran parallel to the 8-mile line (Figure 15). The lot numbers for division of this remote area began by present-day Woburn and proceeded until reaching the Watertown line. The proprietors records provides a list of "the order of the Diuithon of the

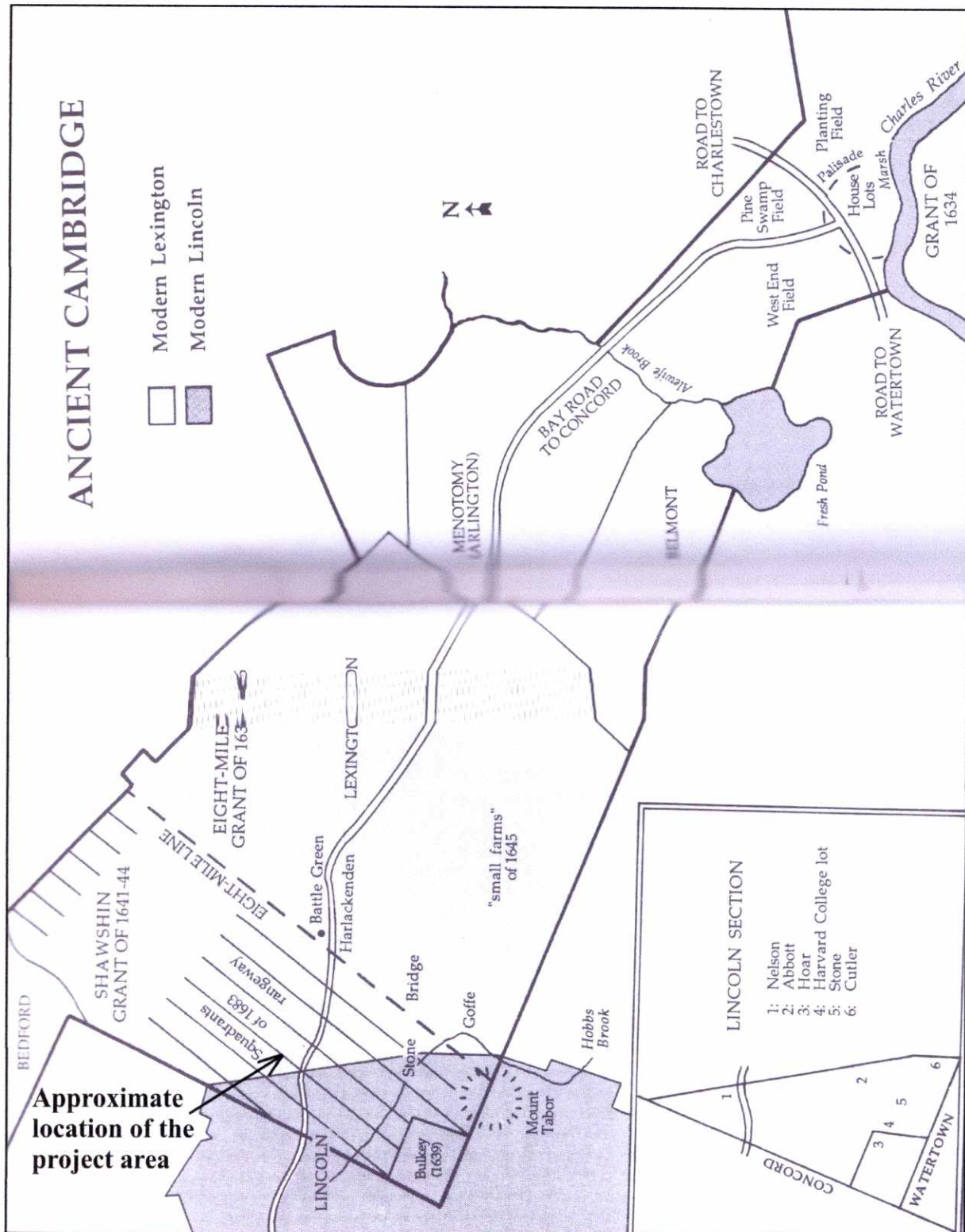


Figure 15. A plan of Ancient Cambridge (MacLean 1987).

lots beyond the eight mile Line betwixt that and Concord line with the Number of acres and Cowe Comons belonging to ach pson surveyed by ensign David ffitk 1683 there being a highway layd betwixt euery Squadrant” (City of Cambridge 1896). Lots were the width of the squadrant, varying in size from five to 66 acres with the average being 20 acres, for the most part too small to support a farm. An average of two acres was given in the Cow Commons, though not everyone received this privilege. The majority of the original owners subsequently sold their lots while others acquired contiguous lots in order to create farms (MacLean 1987). Records suggest that there was at least one settler in the area prior to the 1683 division, John Adams who had occupied land without legal documentation by 1650 (Middlesex Deeds 11:174).

The allocation of the remote lands occurred shortly after efforts were made to form a separate parish in this area due to its distance from the Cambridge meetinghouse. By this time about 30 families, including the Stones, Cutlers, and Bridges lived in what was known as the “Farms.” The petition to form a separate parish, known as Cambridge Farms, was granted in 1691 and the town of Lexington was incorporated on March 20, 1713.

3.3 THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY SETTLEMENT OF CONCORD

Settlement in Concord began in the central village area beyond which lay individually owned, but generally commonly managed fields and meadows. The first generation of settlers lived within a mile of the meetinghouse with each successive generation moving further to the east along Bay Road to the uplands near the Cambridge line. The First Division locations known as Ox Pasture, Elm Brook Meadow, Rocky Meadow, Pond Meadow, Chestnut Field, Corners of Virginia, and The Suburbs included grants in present-day Lincoln. The Second Division grants in the 1650s and 1660s provided the way for the establishment of farms by the following generation. Property holdings were often spread out, as was the case with William Hartwell who owned 79 ½ acres of First Division lands that were scattered between 13 lots.

Two early owners of land in Concord were Thomas Flint and Rev. Peter Bulkeley. Bulkeley, a co-founder and minister of Concord, owned 200 acres of land near the river as well as a 300-acre parcel in the “remote land” that he received in 1639. The first resident who settled on the north side of Bay Road in Concord adjacent to the Cambridge line was Richard Rice who received 171 ½ acres of First and Second Division meadow and upland in 1666 (Figure 16). In 1636 Rice, a herder, had worked in New Towne taking the resident’s cows to the common pasture. On a daily basis he took 100 cows from the palisaded town within a half hour of sunrise and returned them within a half hour of sunset. Rice had a three-month contract for the work for which he was paid 10 pounds. Other early settlers along Bay (Battle) Road included Thomas Brook who first settled in Concord Village then moved with his son to the north side of Bay Road in present-day Lincoln. His son’s home is believed to have been constructed by the mid 1660s. Samuel Hartwell built a house along Bay Road in the early 1690s (MacLean 1987).

3.4 EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH LAND CONVEYANCES

Deed research conducted by MIMA historian Robert Ronsheim traced the Nelson property back to 1716 (Towle and MacMahon 1986b). The following table presents the results of his research.

Table 1. Deed research on the Nelson property by Robert Ronsheim.

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Description
1716	Philip Goodwin	John Edwards	30 acres with Mansion house and barn

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Description
Gap			
1722	Thomas Cutler, Jr.	Samuel Ames	30 acres with dwelling house and barn
1724/25	Samuel Ames	Thomas Nelson	30 acres with house and barn

While deed research for the present project attempted to trace property ownership prior to 1716 and to fill in the gap from 1716 to 1722, it also focused on descriptive information relative to the landscape in and around what was to become Thomas Nelson, Sr.'s farm. Deed research extended to 1692/93 with a deposition concerning John Adams. While the land conveyances between 1716 and 1722 are still questionable, the deeds of that period in and around Nelson's property holdings provide a glimpse at a changing environment.

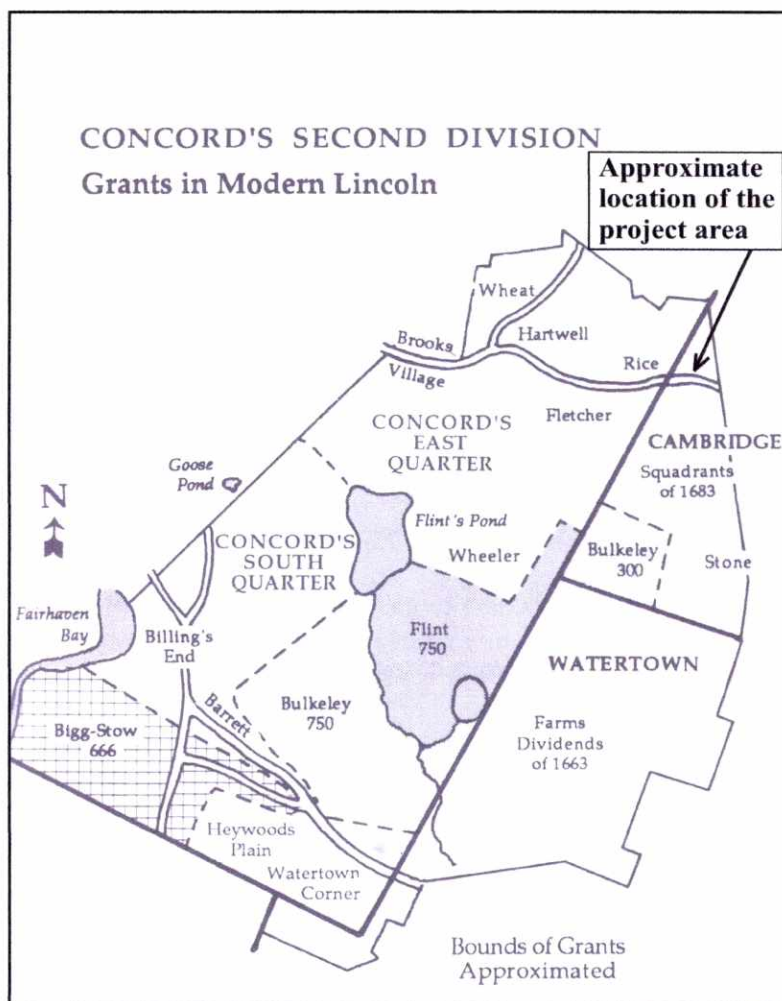


Figure 16. Seventeenth century grants in modern Lincoln (MacLean 1987).

Cambridge and Cambridge Farms Conveyances (to 1712)

On February 21, 1692/93 Golding Moor, 80 years old, and John Squire, 58 years old, testified that John Adams “have occupied apiece of Land in Cambridge, lying on ye North West side of ye Path that goeth from Cambridge Common into the woods butting upon the Cambridge Line South West” for 42 years without any legal documentation (Middlesex Deeds 11:174). The deposition occurred approximately 10 years after the 1683 lot assignment of the Shawsheen Grant. The property appears to have been located along Battle Road by the town’s border with Concord. Moor and Squire were both recipients of land in the eighth squadrant of the 1683 land division, lot numbers 120 and 125, respectively (City of Cambridge 1896). Adams was likely living within the general area of their property since 1645, the time of the first explorations into this region. While the extent of Adams’ holdings were not stated a 1703 conveyance from Adams, then listed as a yeoman from Cambridge, to Edward Emerson of Chelmsford, consisted of 120 acres of upland and meadow together with the timber, stones, trees, and under wood in Cambridge Farms (Middlesex Deeds 13:665). Between 1699 and 1700 Emerson had been buying property in Chelmsford and Dunstable (Middlesex Deeds 13:663-665). As Emerson purchased property in Chelmsford from his father-in-law that included a house, it is likely that the property in Dunstable, which was meadowland, and Cambridge were either used by him for farming and/or grazing or were investment properties.

In 1704, Edward Emerson who was then listed as a husbandman from Charlestown, sold a 72-acre parcel of upland and meadowland in Cambridge Farms to Percival Hall of Medford. The deed cited the southwestern boundary as being Concord (Battle) Road. A second parcel consisting of 10 acres of meadowland was also included (Middlesex Deeds 14:37). While property boundaries from this early time period can be difficult to place in today’s world, roads and neighbors help to establish the conveyance of the same parcel, or a part thereof, through time. During this time period Thomas Cutler, Jr. also purchased several parcels in Cambridge Farms. In 1708, listed as a yeoman from Cambridge Farms, he purchased a 64-acre parcel of upland and meadow that contained a dwelling house from John Windsor, a husbandman from Cambridge Farms (Middlesex Deeds 15:213). Then in 1712 he purchased a 50-acre parcel with a dwelling house and barn in Cambridge Farms from Percival Hall, from Medford. The parcel was bounded southwesterly by Concord Road (Middlesex Deeds 16:236). The deed also mentions all the houses, edifices, timber, stones, tree, fences, woods, water and water courses, and easements – suggesting a considerable amount of work had been accomplished to improve the landscape by the beginning of the eighteenth century

Lexington Conveyances (1712 to 1753)

A number of deed transactions occurred in and around the Nelson property after the incorporation of Lexington continuing to suggest consolidation of parcels for farms as well as the purchase of land for investment purposes. Surnames associated with resident landowners during this time were Kibbey, Fiske, Hobbs, Mudgen, and Nelson. Most of these men owned property both to the north and to the south of Battle (Concord) Road. For the most part the parcels that were purchased had at least one boundary against the grantees property. Like the above described deed from Hall to Cutler, Jr. (Middlesex Deeds: 16:236) the conveyances included all timber, trees, stones, fences, edifices, wood, waterways, and where applicable easements associated with the County (Battle) Road. The mention of wood and trees suggest the importance of timber, stones suggest clearing the land for cultivation as well as for their use in building structures and walls, fences suggest that plowing and/or pasture land had been laid out, and the waterways suggest the construction of ditches. Some of the deeds from this time period also included a house, barn, yard, garden, edifices, water, easements, commonages and common pasture detailing continued improvements to the landscape that were important to both the grantor and the grantee.

In 1716, Phillip Goodwin, a housewright from Lexington, sold a 30-acre parcel containing one mansion house and barn to John Edwards, a tailor from Wenham in Essex County. The property was bounded northwesterly by a rangeway, northeasterly by David Fiske, southwesterly by a rangeway and Thomas Hobbs, and southeasterly by Sherebiah Kibbey and Christopher Mudgen. (Middlesex Deeds 18:255). The rangeway boundary implies an association with the 1683 land grants. On the same day Edwards purchased a 20-acre parcel of land from Matthew Hobbs a laborer from Lexington, that was also bounded on the northwest by a rangeway, Philip Goodwin and Sherebiah Kibbey and on the southwest upon a way (Middlesex Deeds 18:256). In 1717 Sherebiah Kibbey then from Concord purchased 50 acres of land from S. Anger of Watertown that was bounded on the south by woods and the highway (Middlesex Deeds 18:581).

Thomas Nelson likely moved to Lexington in 1715/16 following his marriage to Tabitha Hobbs (Hubbs) at Charlestown (Hudson 1913). The first deed transaction associated with Nelson occurred on March 14, 1721 when Tabitha's father, Josiah Hobbs, conveyed a 23 ½-acre parcel that included his house, barn and adjoining land to his son-in-law, Thomas Nelson, with the stipulation that Nelson could not sell any or all of the premises while Hobbs and his wife were alive. The beginning of the deed states that the conveyance is made "for good and weighty cause and Consideration are thereunto moving Especially in consideration of the dutie and services that my son in law (to witt) Thomas Nelson of the Town and County aforesaid (Husbandman) is to do and perform towards me the said Josiah Hobbs also towards Mary Hobbs my now married wife during our natural lives and at our deaths all which may more fully appear by one bond of one hundred and fifty pounds" (Middlesex Deeds 27:365). The parcel was bounded on the southwest by Thomas Merriam, on the southeast by a highway, on the northeast by Ebenezer Fiske and on the northwest by a highway. Also included was a five-acre parcel that was bounded on the north by Nathaniel Whittemore, on the west by a highway, on the south by John Edwards, and on the east by the heirs of David Fiske. During the same year Thomas and Tabitha's twins, Tabitha and Thomas, Jr., were born.

On May 21, 1722 Thomas Cutler, Jr., described as a yeoman from Lexington, sold a dwelling house with barn and 30-acres of upland and meadow in Lexington to Samuel Ames, a yeoman from Andover. The property was bounded on the northwest by a rangeway, on the northeast by David Fiske, on the southeast and south by a rangeway and the Country Road, and southwesterly by Christopher Muggin and Sherebiah Kibbey. This parcel appears to be adjacent to the above described 1716 deed from Goodwin to Edwards (Middlesex Deeds 18:225). Also included in the deed was a second parcel of land consisting of 20 acres of upland and meadow on the south side of the Country Road (Middlesex Deeds 20:666). This transaction was followed by a mortgage to be paid over three years by Ames to Captain Benjamin Stevens who was also from Andover (Middlesex Deeds 20:667). While the size of the two parcels sold by Cutler, Jr. are consistent with the size of the parcels he purchased from Percival Hall in 1712 (Middlesex Deeds 16:236), the bounds of the property vary.

Apparently growing out of his in-laws house when the twins were toddlers, Thomas Sr., purchased property consisting of two tracts of land from Samuel Ames, who was then living in Lexington, in 1724/25 (Middlesex Deeds 27:366). With one exception the property description and boundaries remain the same as the above described conveyance from Cutler, Jr. to Ames (Middlesex Deeds 20:667). While the abutters remained the same for the 30-acre parcel located to the north of the road, Thomas, Sr. was noted as the north abutter in the 20-acre-parcel located south of the road rather than Josiah Hobbs – this suggests that the parcel to the south was the one Hobbs sold to Thomas, Sr.

Thomas Sr.'s two sons, Thomas, Jr. and Josiah, who was born in 1726, purchased a number of properties in the Lexington/Concord area from 1746 onward. As the focus of this report is Thomas, Sr.'s property boundaries, not all of his sons' holdings will be examined. Of particular note in these deed transactions

though are landscape descriptions that include boundaries of “a ditch way to a willow tree on the north side of the island” (Allen to Thomas, Jr., Lincoln Library 1746 Box 1, Folder 1 000.1.2); “east by a tree to a heap of stones . . . to a white oak stump with stones around it . . . to an oak tree near a meadow” (Whittemore to Josiah; Lincoln Library 1750 Box1, Folder 1 006.1.4); and “stake and stones by a certain rangeway” (Richardson to Josiah; Lincoln Library 1752 Box1, Folder 1 006.1.6). The above deeds reflect a change in the perception of the general landscape. While the earlier deeds highlighted the building blocks of landscape improvement, the above deeds describe a more orderly layout of the landscape where stones also function as boundary markers and fields have been laid out. The continued use of rangeways as boundaries suggests that many parcels still adhered to the 1683 land division and that the rangeways were still used to reach interior properties.

Lexington/Lincoln Conveyances (1754 to 1878)

In 1734 a group of ten men from East Concord joined with neighbors in Lexington and Weston, to petition the General Court to form a new town. While the new town was not granted, the group petitioned the court in 1740 to become a precinct on the condition that they would build their own meetinghouse and support a minister. It was not until 1746 that the Second Precinct of Concord, Lexington and Weston was formed with the understanding that 33 residents and their estates located within its boundaries were exempt from its financial support, one of whom was Thomas Nelson (Figure 17). Then in 1754, the Second Precinct was incorporated as the Town of Lincoln even though the parent towns and some of the precinct’s inhabitants opposed the measure. Many in Lexington opposed the formation of the town and considered it a “Great Hardship unjust and unreasonable to be pried away from the Town of Lexington Contrary to their Interest and Inclination” (MacLean 1987).

As a result of the incorporation of Lincoln, Thomas Sr.’s property was split between the two towns; his house was still located in Lexington and his sons’ houses were located in Lincoln. Of particular interest on the 1754 map of Lincoln is the addition of a disputed parcel of land in Lexington that shows the location of both Thomas Jr. and Josiah’s houses. Also noted is “Nelson Bridge” on the border between Lincoln and Lexington (Figure 18). This bridge has been noted as the bridge to Thomas, Sr.’s houselot (Snow 1973). The bridge may have been used instead of a causeway by Thomas, Sr. to bridge a swampy area between upland areas that were referred to as “islands” or it may have been used to cross a ditch. Snow (1973) noted that there is some evidence that a ditch existed along the boundary line between Thomas Jr.’s and Thomas, Sr.’s houselots in the early eighteenth century as well as along the boundary between Thomas, Jr.’s and Tabitha’s houselots in 1775.

Following the incorporation of Lincoln, Thomas Sr. sold some of his Lincoln property to his sons, possibly to avoid paying taxes on them. In 1755 he sold a 21-acre parcel to Josiah that bounded on both Thomas Sr. and Josiah’s land, the Country Road (Battle Road) and Nathaniel Whittemore (Lincoln Library Box1, Folder 1 006.1.7). On November 18, 1767 Thomas, Jr., a yeoman, and Tabitha, a spinster, released their right of heirship in three pieces of land in Lincoln that their father, Thomas, Sr. had sold to Josiah (Lincoln Library Box1, Folder 1 006.1.10; Middlesex Deeds 3943:41):

- Parcel 1 was six acres of upland and meadow bounded on the northwest by a rangeway and on the southwest by land that Thomas, Sr. had sold that day to Thomas, Jr.
- Parcel 2 was a 32-acre tract of pasture, woodland and swamp that was bounded on the southeast by the above mentioned rangeway.
- Parcel 3 was 10 rods of land, two rods wide and five rods long, at the northwest corner of Thomas, Sr.’s houselot by the rangeway into the pond for watering cattle with the provision that Josiah and his heirs maintain the fence on the grantor’s land.

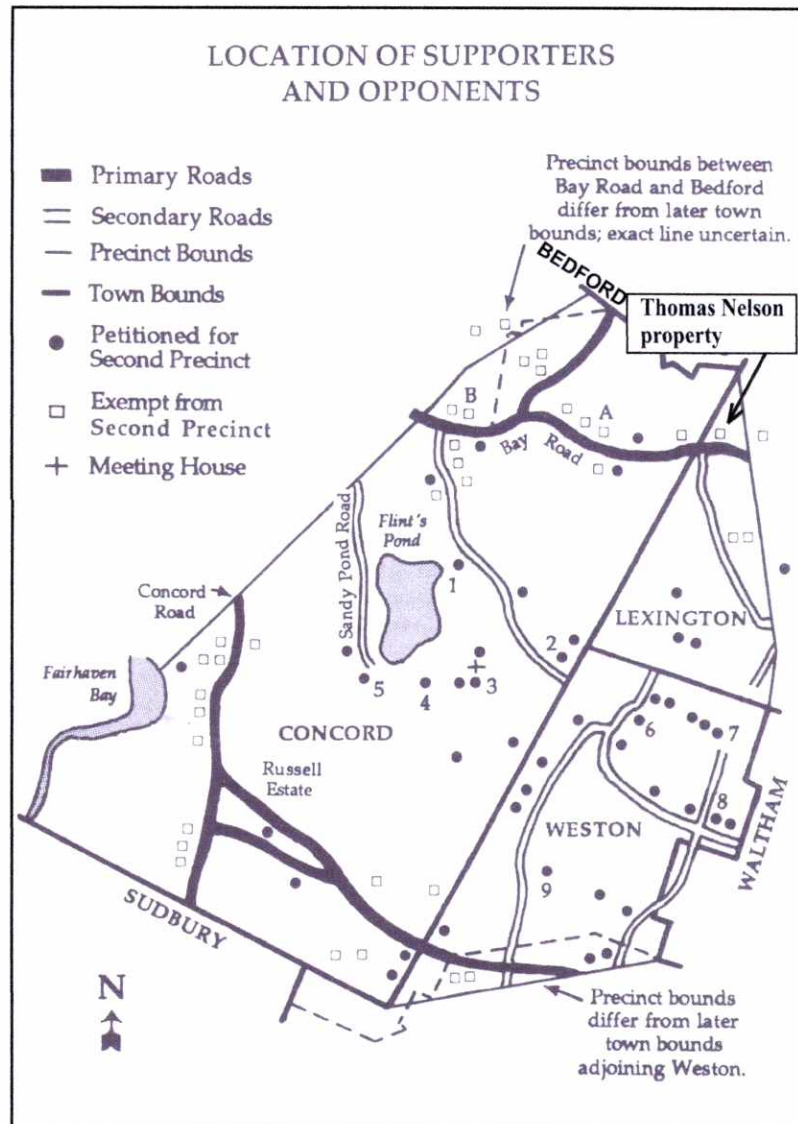


Figure 17. The Second Precinct of Concord (MacLean 1987).

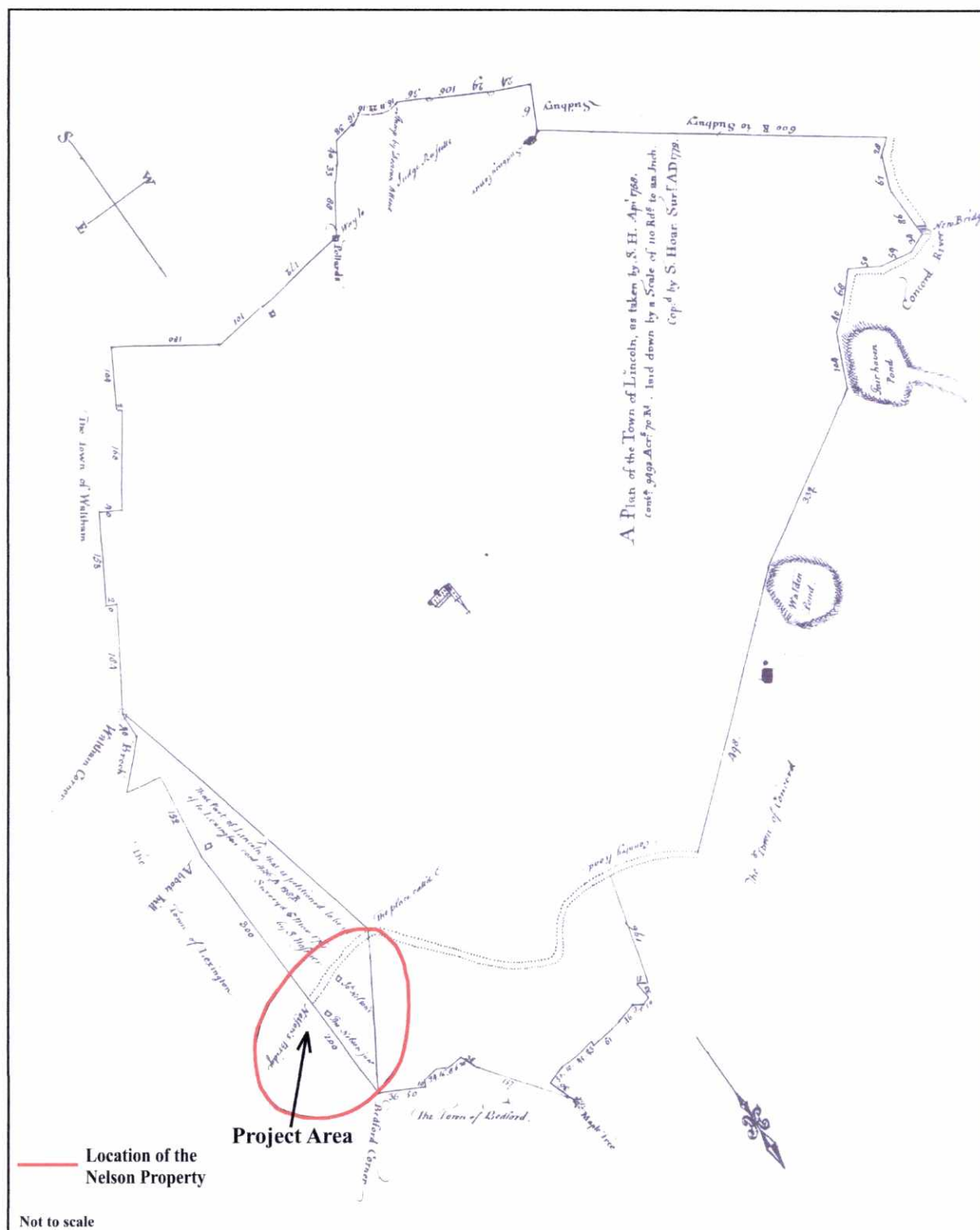


Figure 18. Map of Lincoln in 1858 (Towle and MacMahon 1986).

On the same day, Thomas, Jr. made two conveyances to Josiah (Middlesex Deeds 3943:41).

- Parcel 1 was a one-half acre orchard in Lincoln that was along the north side of the County (Battle) Road.
- Parcel 2 was 8 rods of land, two rods wide and four rods long across the northwesterly end of Thomas, Jr.'s houselot for Josiah to use for watering cattle.

One of the reconstructions of the Nelson lots by Ronshiem (1968) shows the location of the path heading easterly across Thomas, Jr.'s property, connecting to and then heading easterly across Thomas, Sr.'s houselot and ending at watering hole, unfortunately none of Ronsheims reconstructed plans contain a scale (Figure 19).

Thomas, Sr. died in 1770. While he had no will it has been determined that he left his house, barn and 12 acres of land in Lexington and Lincoln to Tabitha. The Lexington property consisted of a 5-acre woodlot to the north of and along the Concord (Battle) Road as well as 3 acres of upland pasture or mowing. The Lincoln property consisted of 4 acres of meadow (Towle and MacMahon 1986; Malcolm 1985). As the Nelson family remained in the area well into the twentieth century, deeds were selectively checked following Tabitha's death to determine the disposition of Thomas, Sr's property.

Following Tabitha's death in 1778, records indicate that her house was moved to Thomas, Jr.'s property and attached to his house after which it was purchased by his son-in-law Samuel Hastings (Middlesex Deeds 222:259). Thomas, Jr. also conveyed all his right in an 8-acre parcel of land together with the east end of the barn to Josiah. The parcel, located partly in Lincoln and partly in Lexington, had been part of Tabitha's property holdings. The parcel's boundary began (Figure 20) (Middlesex Deeds: 3943:44):

- at a stump by the Country (Battle) Road then running southeast on the road to a rangeway,
- then running northeasterly by the rangeway to a stake and stones by Benieman (Benjamin?) Fisk's land,
- then running northwesterly by Fisk's land to a marked tree,
- then running westerly through the barn across the land of their deceased sister to a stake and stone by "my one" land, and
- then running southerly by my "one land" land to the stump first mentioned.

A review of Lexington tax records shows that both Thomas, Jr. and Josiah appeared as nonresident taxpayers during the later part of the eighteenth century with Josiah consistently assessed for more money than Thomas, Jr. The 1802 tax records are of interest as they provide a breakdown of the property size assessing Josiah for five acres of unimproved land (probably woodland) and two acres of improved land (probably location of barn and/or pasture/mowing). Thomas, Jr. was not listed as he had died that year. The deed transaction from Thomas, Jr. and the tax records imply that Josiah owned 7 acres of Tabitha's former land in Lexington to the north of Battle Road. As Thomas, Jr. paid less in taxes than Josiah, his property holdings were either smaller or were considered unimproved. It is unclear if his property was from an earlier purchase from his father and/or had been included in Tabitha's estate.

In 1818 Josiah Nelson, Joshua Nelson, and John Nelson (all descendants of Josiah who had died in 1810) conveyed two parcels of woodland, one in Lincoln and one in Lexington, to Elizabeth and Sarah Nelson (Middlesex Deeds 3943:45). Parcel 1 consisted of 17 acres in Lincoln. While the boundary description

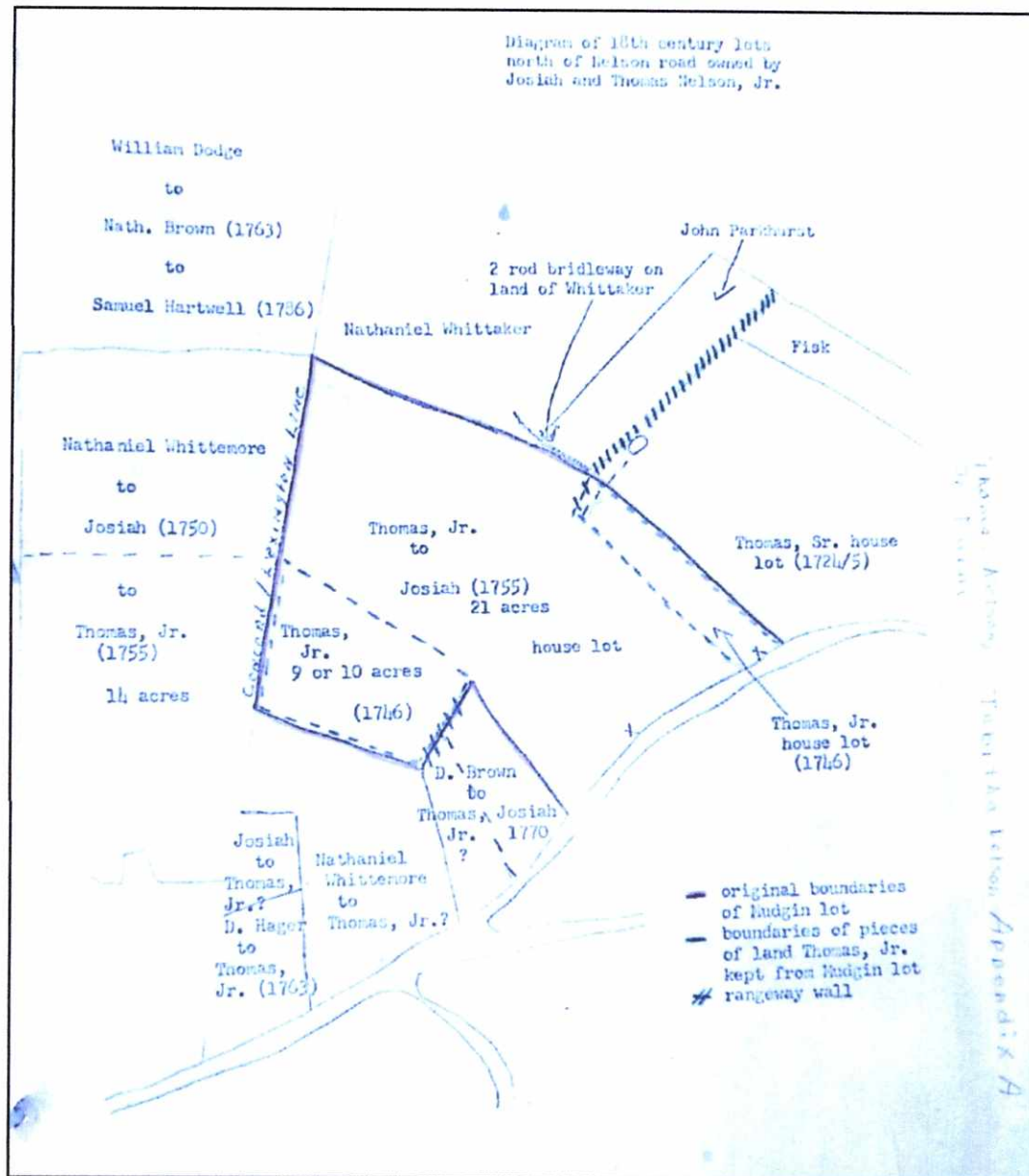


Figure 19. Seventeenth century lots north of Nelson Road of Josiah and Thomas Nelson, Jr. (Ronsheim 1968).

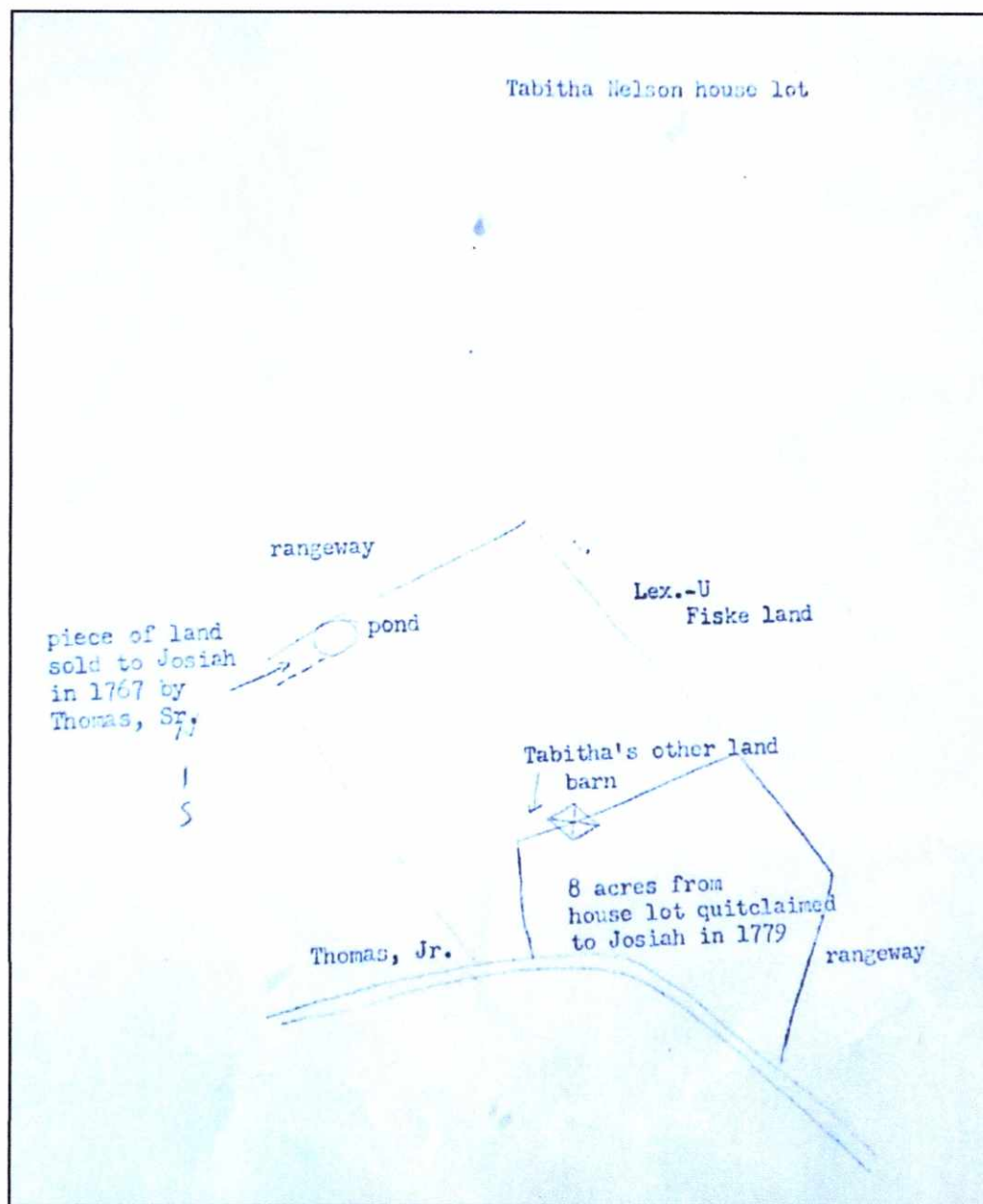


Figure 20. Tabitha Nelson house lot (Ronsheim 1968).

makes it difficult to place, it is located to the west of Samuel Hastings land (formerly Thomas, Jr.'s house). Of interest though is that the deed mentioned one bound as being an "old fence and ditch" another as a "fence on a ditch" all of which suggests that the ditches had outlived their previous function. Parcel 2 consisted of a 5-acre woodlot in Lexington, part of the above described 8-acre parcel of Tabitha's that Thomas, Jr. had conveyed to Josiah. The additional 3 acres may have been included in Parcel 1. The boundary description began at the southeast corner rather than the southwest corner in the above described deed from Thomas, Jr. to Josiah:

- beginning at the south east corner by the old road (Battle Road),
- then running northeasterly by the wall to a stake and stones by the land of John Muzzy,
- then northwesterly to the corner of the wall then by said wall to the corner of Samuel Hastings land by the land of the Widow Williams,
- and westerly by the wall to a stake and stones by the land of Hastings,
- then southerly to a stake and stones by the old road (Battle Road) , and
- then by the road to the first mentioned bounds.

While the boundary descriptions are quite similar, the property is 3 acres smaller, intersecting stone walls provide two of the boundaries, the first mentioned wall is likely along the former rangeway, and there is no mention of the barn. Figure 21 shows a reconstructed plan of Tabitha's property in MIMA that was done by Ronsheim (1968) and includes X, W, V, and T in Lexington as well as most of the present day access road (Airport Road) to HAFB by that location.

Thomas, Jr.'s houselot that abutted his father's property on the east had been included in a 40-a parcel that he purchased in 1746 from James Allen of Boston (Middlesex Deeds 46:192). Thomas, Jr. then sold 21 acres of that parcel to Josiah retaining a narrow lot to the north of Nelson Road as his houselot. Following Thomas, Jr.'s death his property passed on to his daughter and son-in-law, Lydia and Samuel Hastings, then to their children, who in turn sold the property to David Miller in 1837 (Middlesex Deeds 359:259). At the time Miller was consolidating land in the area. Following his death, the property, which consisted of four parcels in Lincoln and Lexington, was sold at public auction to Martin Neville in 1878 (Middlesex Deeds 1472:182). Ultimately though it appears that regardless of the many and various land transactions that followed Thomas, Sr. and Tabitha's death, the defining northern boundary for Thomas Sr.'s property in HAFB and MIMA was the 10-rod parcel or right-of-way (ROW), two rods wide by five rods long, that Josiah purchased from his father in order to access the watering hole for his cattle (Figures 19, 20, and 21).

Table2. Summary of the disposition of Thomas Nelson Sr. property in MIMA and HAFB.

Date	Middlesex Deed (Book:Page)	Grantor	Grantee	Description/Comments
1767	3943:41	Thomas, Sr	Josiah	Lincoln: 6 a upland and meadow; 32 a pasture, woodland, swamp; 10 rod parcel to watering hole
1767	Mentioned in 3943:41	Thomas, Sr	Thomas, Jr	Lincoln; unknown size southwest of Josiah's 6 a parcel above.
1767	3943:43	Thomas, Jr. and Tabitha	Josiah	Relinquish right of heirship in 3 parcels Thomas, Sr sold to Josiah

Date	Middlesex Deed (Book:Page)	Grantor	Grantee	Description/Comments
1770				Thomas, Sr. died; house, barn and 12 a of land in Lincoln and Lexington to Tabitha. Lexington property 5 a woodlot and 3 a upland pasture/mowing; Lincoln land 4 a meadow (Malcolm 1985)
1778				Tabitha died
1779	3943:45	Thomas, Jr.	Josiah	Parcel of 8 a with east end of barn, in Lincoln and Lexington, part of Tabitha's estate
1779	222:259	Thomas, Jr.	Samuel Hastings	Dwelling house late of Tabitha, "as it now stands by my dwellinghouse"
1785??				
1818	3943:44	John Nelson (grandson of Josiah)	Elizabeth and Sarah Nelson	Two pieces of woodland one in Lexington and one in Lincoln. The 5 a woodlot in Lexington was part of Tabitha's 8 a parcel that Thomas, Jr had conveyed to Josiah
1837 to 1878				Various land transactions within Nelson family, then to Miller and Neville.

3.5 TAX AND ASSESSOR'S RECORDS OF THE NELSON FAMILY 1729 TO 1808

A look at select town records provides a glimpse of Thomas Nelson's worth and holdings in comparison to his neighbors during the eighteenth century. With regard to Thomas Sr.'s property a review of eighteenth century tax and assessors records show that while his personal and real estate were less than his neighbors in 1729 (Table 3), he owned more improved land in 1735 (Table 4), and while he owned more animals than his neighbors in 1737 his personal and real estate were still less (Table 5) (Town of Lexington 1729-1818).

Table 3. 1729 tax evaluations.

Name	Poll (pounds, shillings, pence)	Real Estate (pounds, shillings, pence)	Personal Estate (pounds, shillings, pence)	Total (pounds, shillings, pence)
Thomas Nelson, Sr.	00-06-01	00-02-05	00-01-06	00-10-00
Nathaniel Whittemore	00-06-01	00-03-05	00-03-04	00-12-10
Dr. Fiske	00-06-01	00-02-09	00-05-10	00-14-08

Table 4. Acres of improved land held in 1735.

Name	Orchards	Mowing Land	Pasture	Tilling
Thomas Nelson, Sr.	1	6	12	6
Nathaniel Whittemore	3	4	10	4
Dr. Fiske	1	2	2	2



Figure 21. The Nelson Family property (Ronsheim 1968).

According to Donahue (2004), Concord's system of grazing required a yeoman to own from 10 to 20 acres of pasture within approximately ½ mile of his barn to maintain his core stock, with some pasture located on land that might also be tilled. Better pasture was located in glacial upland soils. Thomas, Sr. falls within this range.

Table 5. Number of animals and tax evaluation in 1737.

Name	Polls	Oxen	Cows	Horses	Swine	Personal Estate (pounds, shillings)	Real Estate (pounds, shillings)
Thomas Nelson, Sr.	1	2	4	1	2	12 -16	10-10
Nathaniel Whittemore	2	3	3	1	1	12-18	21-00
Dr. Fiske	1	2	2	2	0	20-00	21-00

The above tally of animals represents the "home herd" or the working, breeding and subsistence stock. Quite often there was another herd of beef cattle in outer pastures in other towns. Even though Thomas, Sr. had sufficient acreage for grazing and had more animals than his neighbors, both his personal and real estate were still less, suggesting that mixed husbandry was not particularly lucrative or that his neighbors had had multiple means of income. In comparison to others on the same page, the real estate varied from a high of 45-06 to a low of 06-00 and personal estate varied from a high of 66-00 to a low of 01-18, the above men were on the low end of the spectrum. Table 6 shows that by 1745 Thomas Sr. not only had slightly fewer animals than his neighbor's, but his personal and real estate were considerably less than in 1737.

Table 6. Number of animals and tax evaluation in 1745.

Name	Polls	Oxen	Cows	Horses	Swine	Personal Estate (pounds, shillings)	Real Estate (pounds, shillings)
Thomas Nelson, Sr.	2	0	3	2	3	09-14	21-00
Nathaniel Whittemore	2	2	4	2	1	37-12	45-00
Dr. Fiske	2	2	2	1	4	20-12	27-00

In 1771, the year after Thomas, Sr. died, the *Lexington List of the Poll and the Estates, Real and Personal of the several proprietors and inhabitants* (Town of Lexington 1771) listed Tabitha as having real estate worth 2-10-00 (pounds-shillings-pence). She had one cow/heifer older than three years, 3 acres of English upland and mowing and one ton of English upland hay. English hay was a better quality fodder crop than native meadow grass that was most often mowed in orchards or planted in higher meadow ground that was not subject to flooding in the winter. In the same year she was assessed for 4 acres of mowing land in Lincoln (Ronsheim 1968). It appears that her 5-acre parcel of woodland was still considered unimproved property and therefore not mentioned in the evaluation.

Josiah and Thomas Nelson show up in the Tax Assessor's Records between 1781 and 1808 with similar entries until approximately 1795 after which time they are assessed as non-residents in the south side of the town (it's possible that the town didn't distinguish between residents and nonresidents before 1795 or these entries were just not noticed). In the early years Thomas was assessed for 16 pounds and Josiah for 25 pounds and in 1795 Thomas was assessed for 66 pounds and Josiah for 86 pounds. In 1802 Thomas is not included in the records as he had died. From 1802 until 1808 Josiah was assessed for 5 acres of unimproved land valued at \$200 for which he was taxed one-third or \$66.60 and 2 acres of improved land at \$30, for a total tax of \$96.60 (Town of Lexington 1780-1808).

4.0 RESULTS OF A FIELD WALKOVER

A walkover of the area under study in HAFB and MIMA was conducted by JMA archeologists Barbara Donohue and Martin Dudek in the winter of 2010 with the purpose of identifying remnant landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson, Sr. Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6). Both archeologists were familiar with the HAFB landscape having worked on the specialized intensive survey (Donohue 2007). As the background research had been completed prior to the walkover, it became clear that the water features on the property may not have been identified properly in the previous survey (Donohue 2007). Rather than unnamed streams, it appears that those features were associated with the development of the land for farming and animal husbandry.

HAFB

The walkover began in HAFB in the area to the south and west of the parking lot for Building 1103. This area contains a grassy, landscaped area adjacent to the south and western end of the parking lot. A lightly wooded area is located between the grassy, landscaped area to the west of the parking lot and a north-south oriented water feature with a pool of water to the northwest (Figure 22, Area A). During the specialized intensive survey the fascine knife and gun part were recovered from the lightly wooded area (W1) during the metal detector survey and limited testing following the magnetometer survey revealed iron and cuprous materials that were not diagnostic. Field testing during the specialized archeological survey revealed that the area adjacent to the north-south oriented water feature contained either hydric A horizon soils over C horizon soils or multiple levels within the A horizon over either B or C horizon soils. Interpreted as an unnamed stream with multiple soils levels associated with flooding activity, the feature is now interpreted as a ditch (D1) (Plate 1). While the multiple soil levels may be associated with flooding activity, they may also be associated with cleaning out the ditch. This area also contains the intersection of two stonewalls (SW1/SW2) that were constructed sometime between 1778 and 1818.

The location of two additional features were not included in the previous survey: a pool of water (P1) (Figure 22, top) to the northwest of D1 (Figure 22, bottom) may be associated with a former water hole (Plate 2) and a northeast trending ditch (D2) to the west of the western entrance to the parking lot that passes through a culvert under Randall Road (Plate 3). D2 may be associated with both past and present drainage activities.

Also included in the HAFB property is the wooded area to the north and east of the parcel given to MIMA (W2) (Figure 22). This is an area of woodland that may have been used as pasture during the time period associated with the Revolutionary War. The musket ball bullet mold and colonial shoe buckle were recovered from this area.

MIMA

The walkover then continued in MIMA in the area bounded by the fence to the north and northeast, Airport Road to the west, and a stonewall (SW1) to the south (Figure 22, Area B). A grass-covered field is located between Airport Road and a lightly wooded area to the west of several water features. Testing within the grass-covered field revealed that the area had been plowed and a mix of historic (including creamware and pearlware [1762-1830]), and modern (including machine-made glass [1903+]) materials were recovered. The field is a remnant section of an agricultural field (F1). A second grass-covered field is located to the south of the water features. The previous survey identified deep rectangular features during the magnetometer survey. Field testing revealed that the soils had been plowed and a number of architectural items (including cut nails [post 1795]) and historic materials (including transfer-printed porcelain [1760+], creamware [1762-1820] and whiteware [1820+]) were recovered. This field is also a

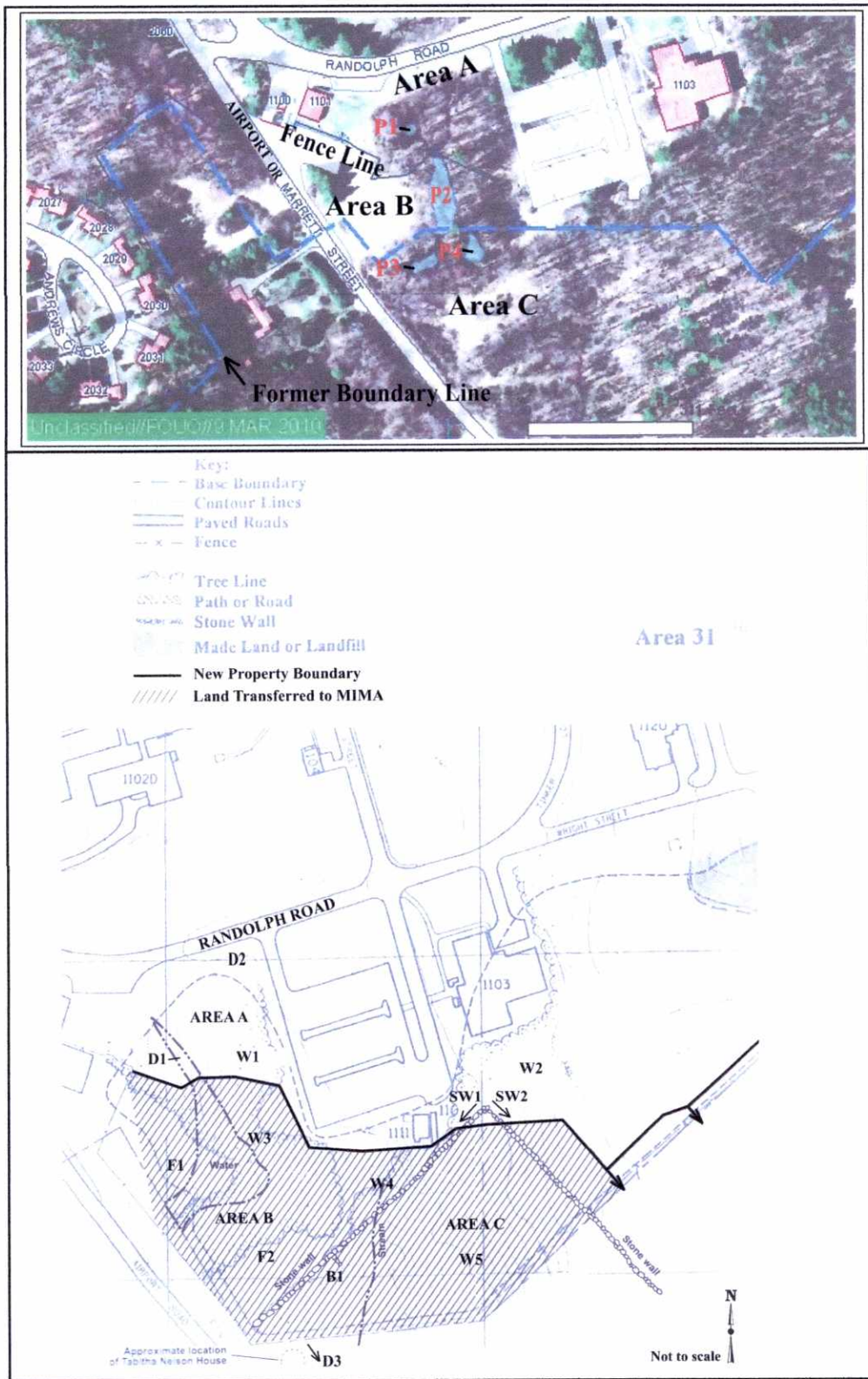




Plate 1. Looking west-northwest at ditch (D1) from parking lot.



Plate 2. Looking southwest across pool of water (P1) towards Airport Road.



Plate 3. Looking south at drainage ditch (D2) east of pool (P1).

remnant section of an agricultural field (F2). Two wooded areas are located within this area. The first wooded area (W3) is a continuation of W1, which is located in HAFB. The second wooded area (W4) is located to the north of and adjacent to SW1. Testing during the specialized survey within both areas yielded both iron and architectural materials that were not diagnostic. SW1 was constructed on the property between 1778 and 1818.

Three water features are also located within this area (Figure 22, top). The first feature, appearing as an extension of D1, is an oval pool of what appears to be impounded water (P2) (Plate 4). Two pools of water are located to the south of P2. Located to the southwest is a rounded pool of water (P3) (Plate 5) that appears to be associated with P2 as a narrow channel connects the two features. The channel is now covered with rocks and brush (Plate 6). A well-defined path/channel located on the west side of P3 heads towards Airport Road (Plate 7); this may have been a former watering hole. Located to the southeast is a pool of water (P4) with a number of boulders along its southern bank (Plate 8). While this could also be associated with former watering hole, it is located near F2 and may have had another function. It appears though that P2 holds an association with P3 and P4 and may have been constructed to provide water to the two other water features. During the previous survey P2 was considered a flooded continuation of the unnamed stream and the other features were considered areas of standing water.

The final area of concern in MIMA is bounded northerly by SW1, westerly by Airport Road, easterly approximately 50 ft to the east of a north-south oriented stonewall (SW2) and on the south continues into MIMA (Figure 22, Area C). This area is predominantly woodland that was formerly used as woodland or pasture (W5). A number of large boulders/erratics are located across the surface. During the metal detector survey three musket balls were recovered from this area. Previous field testing investigated the

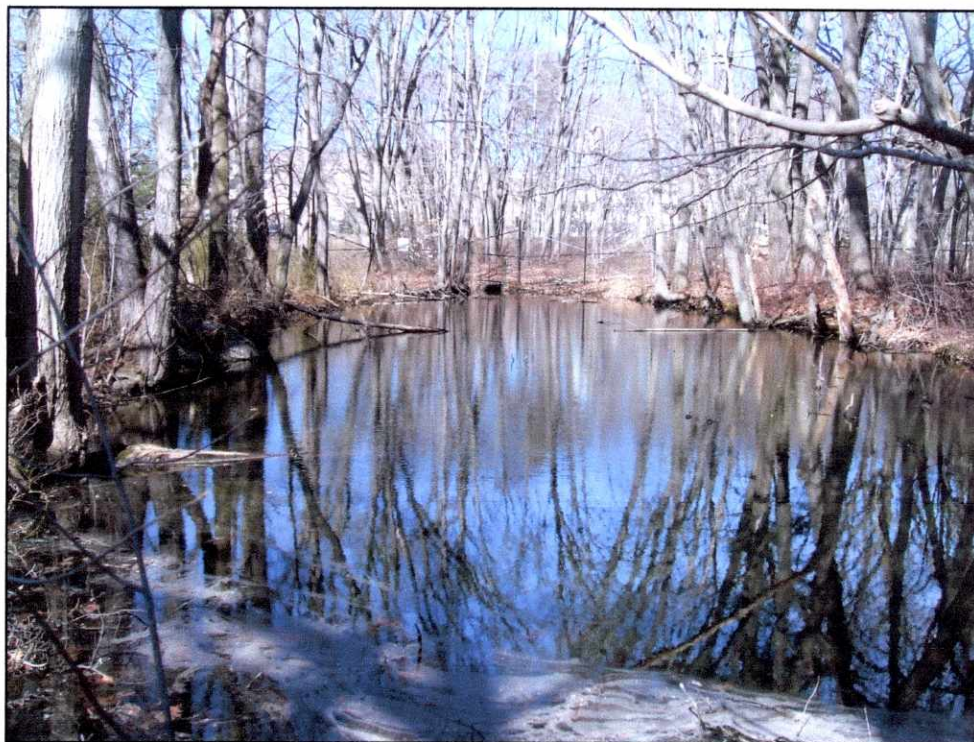


Plate 4. Looking north at impounded pool of water (P2).



Plate 5. Looking southwest at second pool of water (P3) in MIMA.



Plate 6. Looking north-northeast from P3 towards connecting channel and P2.



Plate 7. Looking southwest at channel heading from P3 towards Airport Road.



Plate 8. Looking southeast at pool of water (P4).

location believed to be the former Nelson barn (B1). Trash likely associated with the Nelson family was recovered to the southeast and southwest of the suspected barn location. A former ditch or remnant section of a rangeway (D3) was identified in the southern section of this area, to the east of the suspected location of the Tabitha Nelson house site. SW2 was constructed on the property between 1778 and 1818.

5.0 CONCLUDING SUMMARY

Prior to colonial settlement the general vicinity of the project area contained rolling terrain with meadowland, woodland, and swamps. Following initial settlement the landscape was organized by roads, fences, stonewalls, agricultural fields, pastureland, woodlots, and orchards. By the time of the Revolution the area along Battle Road contained expansive farm fields lined with stone walls and wooden fences, grazing animals, orchards, houses and barns, taverns, small gardens, and farm crops. A developing system of roads connectedouselots, farmland, and neighboring towns.

5.1 RECENT RESEARCH ON THE BATTLE ROAD UNIT

A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) (Dietrich-Smith 2005) for the Battle Road Unit at MIMA provides valuable information pertinent to the present survey. When summarizing landscape integrity the report organized the Battle Road Unit under three property types: Military (1775), Commemorative (1836 to 1959) and Agriculture (1600s to 1959). The conclusions of the report with regard to Military and Agriculture properties provide a standard for assessing remnant landscapes associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 and the Thomas Nelson, Sr. Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) in HAFB and the 3.082-acre parcel of land transferred to MIMA. Large-scale historic landscape features associated with the Military and Agriculture property types include open fields; wet meadows, especially those under cultivation; and woodland in areas that were forested in 1775. Small-scale features would include stone walls, ditches, and boulders. While archaeological resources were not dealt with in the CLR, the specialized intensive survey (Donohue 2007) clearly indicates that both large-scale and small-scale historic archeological features are present in the area under study in both HAFB and MIMA.

The CLR evaluated the seven aspects or qualities of integrity for the property types in the Battle Road Unit. The results of that evaluation for the Battle Road Unit is present in Table 7, as it underscores the importance of the remnant landscapes associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 and the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) in the area under study in this report.

Table 7. Landscape features that remain in the Battle Road Unit and the project area.

Aspects of Integrity	Military (1775)	Agriculture 1600s to 1775	Project Area/Thomas Nelson Sr. Farm
Location: the place of the historic event	Retains location	Retains location	Retains location
Design: organization of space, patterning of structures or activity areas relative to one another	Diminished design as colonial building clusters and field patterns have been lost, spatial organization interrupted by construction of roads and growth of woodlands	Diminished design as most of the colonial agricultural buildings lost, stone walls define field patterns, but many have reverted to woodland; agricultural roads and some farm lanes remain.	Diminished design, buildings lost, water control features and ditch features remain, as do remnant agricultural fields.
Setting: the physical environment including topographic features, vegetation, man-made features	Retains setting due to large-scale physical features including undulating hills, rock outcrops, wetlands and creeks.	Retains setting due to large-scale physical features including undulating hills, rock outcrops, wetlands and creeks	Retains setting due to large-scale features of undulating hills, woodland, rock outcrops/erratics,
Materials: the physical elements that were	Diminished materials as many of the colonial	Diminished materials as many 18 th C. agricultural	Diminished materials as only remnant rangeways

Aspects of Integrity	Military (1775)	Agriculture 1600s to 1775	Project Area/Thomas Nelson Sr. Farm
combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property	buildings, stone walls and road surfaces have been lost	buildings have been lost; agricultural roads, farm lanes, and stone walls remain; nonagricultural buildings, roads, stone walls, and commemorative markers have been added.	may be present
Workmanship: the physical evidence of crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period	Diminished workmanship as many colonial structures and stone walls have been lost; some colonial houses remain, some with significance alterations; some colonial stone walls and stone-lined drainage ditches may remain.	Diminished workmanship as many agricultural buildings have been lost; a number of stone walls remain some of which have been rebuilt by the park service.	Diminished workmanship as only water control features remain; archeological features may remain (such as rectangular features in field and barn foundation)
Feeling: a property's features in combination with its setting convey a historic sense of a particular period of time	Diminished feeling due to loss of colonial buildings, agricultural fields and orchards; most stone walls do not date to 1775; noise and visual intrusion of roads and HAFB.	Diminished feeling due to the loss of a significant number of agricultural buildings, fields and orchards.	Diminished feeling due to construction of HAFB.
Association: the direct link between an important historic event and a historic property	Retains association	Retains association	Retains association

5.2 LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND BOUNDARY OF THE THOMAS NELSON FARM SITE (19-MD-347/HA.6)

Documentary research (Donahue 2004 and Town of Lexington 1729-1818) has revealed a number of landscape features that would be expected on the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6). These include:

- Ditches: surviving remnant of water control practices, such as flowing meadows, watering stock.
- Ditches: surviving remnants of property and field boundaries, including to enclose pastureland.
- Ditches: surviving remnants of agricultural practices, such as facilitating distribution of manure.
- Land for agricultural fields: on land with well-drained soils.
- Pastureland: on stony glacial till and upland areas.
- Woodlot: for fuel and building.
- Orchards: for growing fruit for sale and/or distill alcoholic beverages.
- Stonewalls and wooden fences: for property and field boundaries.
- Driftway: for the cattle to go to the watering hole.

With the exception of the orchards and stonewalls/wooden fences, remnants of the above landscape features are located in the HAFB/MIMA project area.

Landscape features associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 have been described in a number of histories and diaries (Donohue 2007). Pertinent descriptions include:

- Field described as “meadowy and scarred with trenches”
- Field described as “strewn with huge boulders”
- Thorning’s story of hiding in a ditch, then running into a rocky field, and taking his stand behind a boulder
- North of Battle Road was studded with large granite boulders, pasture, sheep, rocky hillside of Tabitha Nelson.
- Soldiers ran through backyards, wetlands and streams

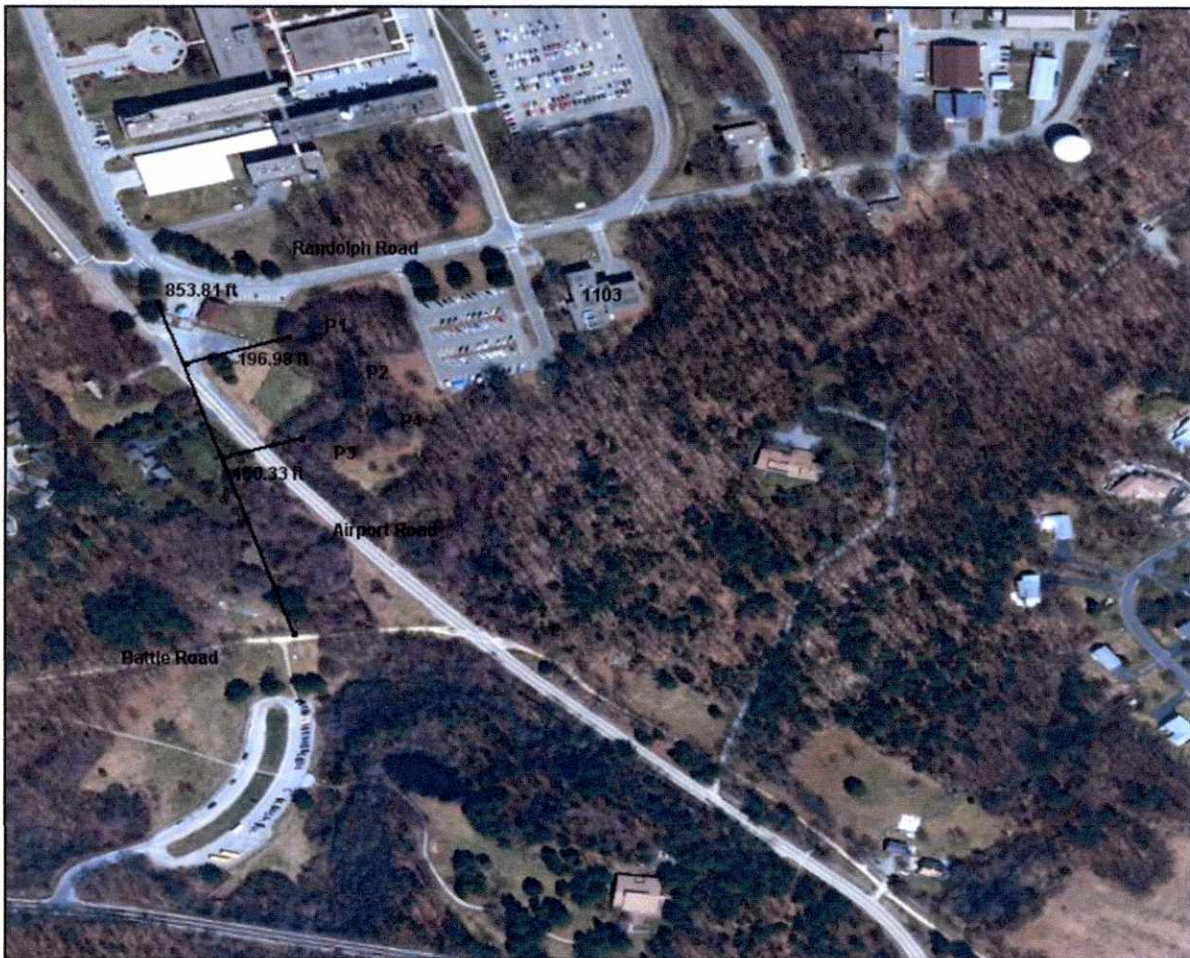
With the exception of the “meadowy” land, remnants of all of the above landscape features are located in the HAFB/MIMA project area.

It has already been determined that features and artifacts associated with the Battle of April 19, 1775 are located within HAFB even after the land conveyance to MIMA (Donohue 2007). The purpose of this report is to determine if landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6) are still located within HAFB. These features include: agricultural fields, pasture, woodland, field of boulders, ditches, house site, barn site, back yards, and a driftway for the cattle to get to the watering hole, and a watering hole. Ditches, which could predate Nelson, are an important feature of the history and early settlement of both Lexington and Lincoln. These features, as well as remnant sections of rangeways, could date to the allotment and development 8 Mile squadrants circa 1683.

The question that remains is where are the boundaries of the Nelson farm in HAFB? It appears from deed research that Tabitha got most, if not all of her father’s property to the northeast of Battle Road. This included the houselot, house, barn, and 12 acres of land in Lexington and Lincoln. The 12 acres included a 5-acre woodlot and 3-acre parcel of upland pasture or mowing in Lexington and a 4-acre parcel of meadowland in Lincoln. While Ronsheim (1968) has drawn detailed plans of all the Nelson property, none of them contain a scale and are likely reconstructed following considerable research. Ronsheim’s research suggests that the driftway to the watering hole that Josiah purchased from his father and Thomas, Jr., is the northern boundary of the Nelson property within HAFB/MIMA. It is unclear if Thomas, Sr. previously owned land to the north of the driftway and watering hole. Continued research into plans associated with the project area revealed a plan from 1946 that appears to include the western boundary of the Thomas Nelson, Jr. property, shown on the plan as belonging to James P and Henry Neville (Figure 23). Assuming the western boundary of the Neville property holds an association with the boundary of the Thomas Nelson, Jr. property, then the driftway would have been located approximately 814 ft north from Nelson Road at which point it would extend 148.5 ft east to the watering hole. Figure 24 depicts approximate location points of the driftway according to the above information on a 2007 aerial.

As a result of this survey four landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6), one landscape feature belonging to either Nelson or his neighbor, and two that post dates the Nelson farm have been identified in HAFB. Within the parcel transferred to MIMA, 10 landscape features associated with the Thomas Nelson Farm site (19-MD-347/HA.6), one landscape feature suspected to belong to either Nelson or his neighbor, and two that post date Nelson’s farm been identified. Tables 8 and 9 summarize the landscape features identified in HAFB and MIMA, respectively, as a result of this survey.





**Figure 24. Approximate boundary of the Nelson Farm in HAFB
(www.historicaerials.com).**

Table 8. Summary of landscape features identified in HAFB.

Landscape Feature	ID #	Previous Survey Identification	Recovered Artifacts	Thomas Nelson Farm	Revolution
Northernmost pool of water/watering hole	P1	Not included	No	Yes	Yes
Wooded area to W of parking lot	W1	Wooded area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wooded area to E of MIMA property; pasture/woodland	W2	Pasture/Woodland	Yes	Possibly/or neighbor	Yes
Ditch with high bank	D1	Unnamed stream	No	Yes	Yes
NE trending ditch near W entrance of parking lot	D2	Not included	No	Yes	Yes
Intersection of 2 stonewalls	SW1/SW2	Intersection of 2 stonewalls	No	No	No

Table 9. Summary of landscape features identified in MIMA.

Landscape Feature	ID #	Previous Survey Identification	Recovered Artifacts	Thomas Nelson Farm	Revolution
Oval impounded pool, W of parking lot	P2	Unnamed stream	No	Yes	Yes
Pool of water to SW of impounded pool (P2)/ water hole with path/channel to west	P3	Standing water	No	Yes	Yes
Pool of water to SE of impounded pool (P2)/water hole	P4	Standing water	No	Yes	Yes
Wooded area W of the parking lot	W3	Wooded area, woodland.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wooded area S of parking lot	W4	Wooded area, woodland/pasture	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ditch/remnant section of rangeway	D3	Not included	No	Yes	Yes
Agricultural field to W of impounded pool (P2)	F1	Plowed field	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agricultural field to S of wooded area (W2)	F2	Plowed field	Yes	Yes	Yes
East-west oriented stone wall property boundary (ca 1818)	SW1	East-west oriented stone wall, unknown date	No	No	No
Barn foundation site (dating ca 1724, gone by 1818)	B1	Barn foundation site	Yes	Yes	Yes

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

Landscape Feature	ID #	Previous Survey Identification	Recovered Artifacts	Thomas Nelson Farm	Revolution
Woodland/pasture/with boulders	W4	Woodland/pasture with boulders	Yes	Yes, also possibly Benjamin Fiske property	Yes
North-south oriented stone wall property boundary (post 1775 to circa 1818)	SW2	North-south oriented stone wall property boundary , unknown date	No	No	No

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