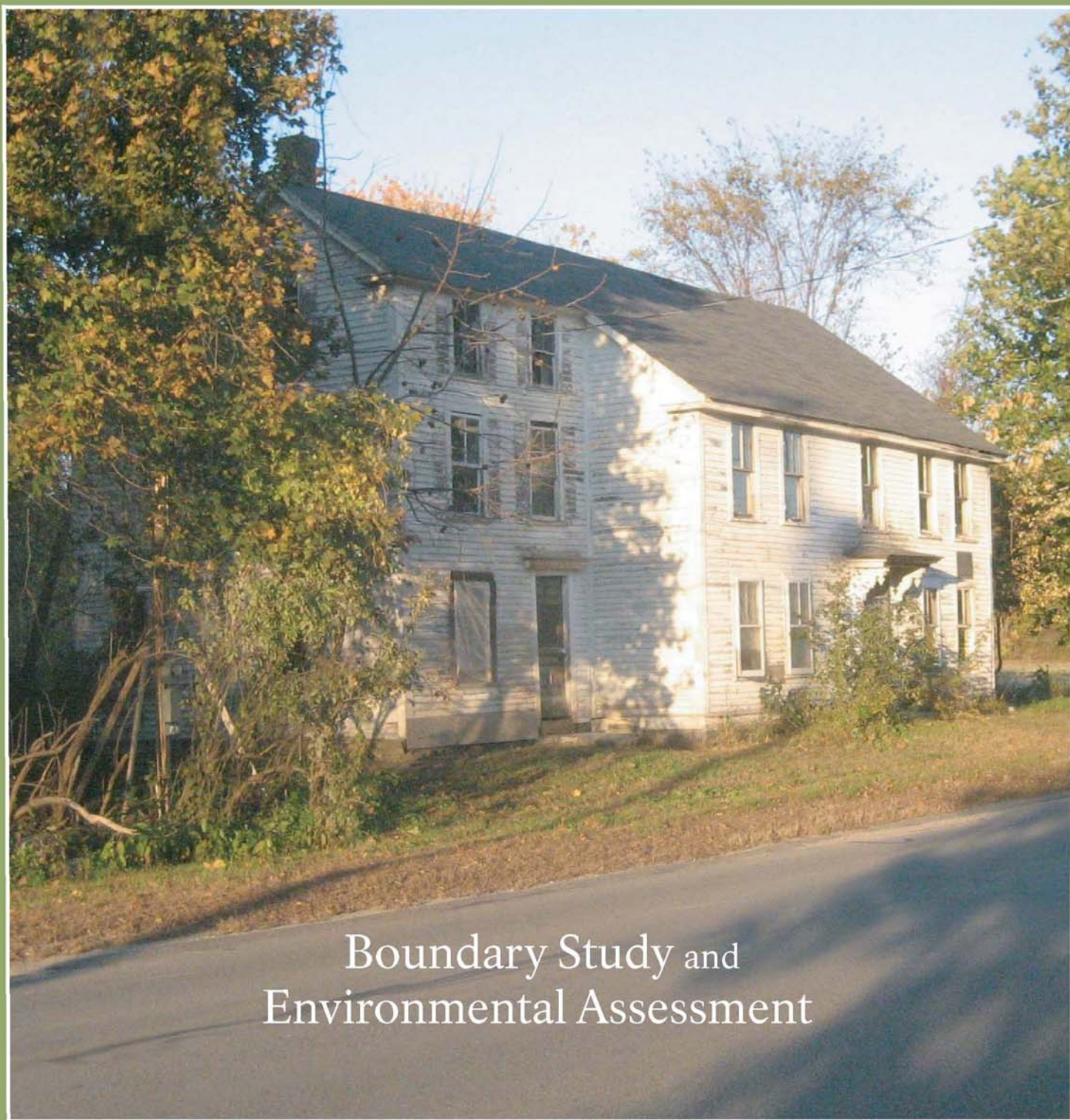




Minute Man National Historical Park



Boundary Study and
Environmental Assessment

August 2007

Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Study

Executive Summary

This study considers expanding the boundary of Minute Man NHP. There are several significant properties outside the existing park boundary that are integral to the story of Minute Man NHP or are important to management of its current resources and that have been identified for possible inclusion in the park boundary. The boundary study evaluates inclusion of Colonel James Barrett's Farm House, 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA, as well as abutting properties that once were part of the original farm. Colonel Barrett's Farm was a hiding place for military stores hidden by the colonists that British troops were trying to seize in an action that precipitated the Revolutionary War. The study also examines inclusion of 37 North Great Road (Battle Road), which is a property contiguous to Minute Man NHP and the Battle Road, in Lincoln, MA (behind the historic Joshua Brooks House).

The boundary study presents two alternatives—1) Alternative 1: No Action; and 2) Alternative 2: Adjust the Boundary to Preserve Barrett's Farm and the Area around the Joshua Brooks House. Alternative 2 meets criteria for boundary expansions published in *National Park Service Management Policies 2006* (Section 3.5). This alternative would expand the park boundary and permit acquisition of Barrett's Farm and other identified parcels as well as development of general agreements for landscape preservation with surrounding properties. This alternative also would permit development of a general agreement or possible acquisition for part or all of the parcel at 37 North Great Road, at Elm Brook and the Joshua Brooks House, in Lincoln, MA. This alternative would allow acquisition of private parcels by willing sellers.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Part One: Background	3
Part Two: Resource Description	9
Part Three: Alternatives and Application of National Park Service Criteria for Boundary Adjustments	13
Part Four: Environmental Assessment of Alternatives	20
Bibliography	28
Study Team and Advisors	29
Maps	30
Photos	34

Part One: Background

Introduction

In 1989, Minute Man National Historical Park (NHP) adopted a General Management Plan (GMP) to guide ongoing development of the park. The GMP outlined management strategies for ensuring the protection of the park's significant cultural resources, providing better opportunities for visitor understanding of the events of the first day of the Revolutionary War, evoking the cultural landscape of 1775 and providing facilities to appreciate the park's unique resources. Much of the GMP has been implemented. The NPS has invested over \$11 million to create a 5.5-mile Battle Road Trail and rehabilitate historic structures and cultural landscape features over the past 15 years.

Nevertheless, the existing boundary of Minute Man National Historical Park has not been able to protect all the significant resources and values related to the park. The National Park Service has undertaken this boundary study for Minute Man NHP to evaluate its current boundary, considering whether to include additional properties within the boundary and develop alternatives that would protect related cultural, natural, and scenic resources.

Minute Man National Historical Park

Description and Location

Minute Man National Historical Park is located in Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln, MA. Containing 971 acres, the park preserves historic sites, structures, properties and landscapes associated with the opening battles of the American Revolution, which occurred April 19th, 1775. Public Law 86-321, passed by Congress in 1959, established Minute Man NHP to preserve and interpret properties related to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This act was supplemented by Public Law 102-488 in 1992, which expanded the park boundary and reiterated the purpose of the park to include the preservation and interpretation of the American Literary Renaissance sites and the historic landscape along the Battle Road between Lexington and Concord.

Minute Man NHP has three geographic units:

North Bridge Unit—Located in Concord, the core of this unit is the North Bridge, which crosses the Concord River. The recently rebuilt structure is on the site of the 1775 North Bridge, where the local militia and minuteman companies fought the British regulars on April 19, 1775. This unit also includes the North Bridge Visitor Center, Minute Man Statue, and Major John Buttrick House.

Battle Road Unit—The Battle Road Unit encompasses portions of the road that passes from Concord through Lincoln to Lexington, along which local militias battled British regulars. Stretching about four miles along Massachusetts Avenue/North Great Road/Lexington Road/Route 2A, the Battle Road Unit has been restored in many places to resemble the landscape of 1775. The unit features the Minute Man Visitor Center and many historic buildings and sites, including Fiske Hill, Captain William Smith House, Paul Revere Capture Site, Hartwell Tavern, and Meriam's Corner. The Battle Road Trail includes parts that have been restored to a dirt and

clay surface that resembles the original road. The trail connects the park's historic buildings and landmarks and crosses historic farm fields, wetlands, and forests.

Wayside Unit—The Wayside, a historic house dating from before the American Revolution, is located in Concord. In the 19th century, it became the home, sequentially, of educator Bronson Alcott, writers Louisa May Alcott and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and children's author Margaret Sidney. This unit celebrates Concord's rich literary tradition.

Minute Man NHP is located approximately 16 miles northwest of Boston, MA. The region surrounding the park has developed from a semi-rural area to mature suburbs. It experiences continual growth pressures. Growth from residential, commercial, and industrial development has increased impacts from traffic, noise, and density in and around the park. The park attracts over 1,000,000 visitors each year.

Minute Man National Historical Park Purpose and Significance

According to the Minute Man Park Act of 1959, the primary purpose of Minute Man NHP is “to preserve for the benefit of the American people certain historic structures and properties of outstanding national significance associated with the opening of The War of the American Revolution,...” including “a number of historic properties, buildings, sites, and objects ... including the road and roadsides between Lexington and Concord, [that] are intimately connected with the events that opened the war, and consequently, merit preservation and interpretation in the public interest as prime examples of the Nation's historical heritage.” A secondary source of significance at Minute Man NHP is The Wayside Unit, which features the home of writers Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Bronson Alcott, and Margaret Sidney. Through The Wayside, the park maintains a powerful connection to America's 19th-century Literary Renaissance.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord, which initiated the Revolutionary War, were the culmination of a long series of events in which the American colonies, particularly Massachusetts, challenged British rule. The Boston Tea Party, which took place on December 16, 1773, intensified the conflict. In response to Boston's protest of the Tea Tax, the British Parliament enacted measures referred to in the colonies as the “Intolerable” or “Coercive” Acts. These acts closed the port of Boston and placed Massachusetts under British military rule. After Major General Sir Thomas Gage occupied Boston, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts urged militia officers in each town to enlist a quarter of their men in elite Minute Man organizations and to begin stockpiling ammunition and other military stores. Concord, 16 miles northwest of Boston, was a major depot for these stores, with Colonel James Barrett's Farm being an important hiding place.

On the evening of April 18, 1775, General Gage sent a detachment of 700 troops to destroy the military stores in Concord. Detecting the plan, the Americans sent riders, including Paul Revere and William Dawes, to spread the alarm throughout the countryside. At sunrise on April 19, the British detachment found part of the Lexington militia assembled on the town common. A shot was fired, its origin unknown, and the British regulars fired a volley without any clear order. The militia quickly dispersed, leaving eight militia men dead and ten wounded.

The British column marched toward Concord. The Concord militia and minutemen, greatly outnumbered, withdrew as the British arrived. As the British searched the town for military stores, the Americans crossed the North Bridge and retired to a hill nearby. Shortly after, 120

British soldiers crossed the bridge to search for hidden military supplies at Barrett's Farm, two miles away. Another 96 soldiers were posted to secure the North Bridge.

Finding some stores in Concord Center, the British burned them. The smoke made the Americans believe that British had set fire to the town. By this time, other companies had joined Concord's force, swelling it to 400 men. Colonel James Barrett ordered the force toward the bridge to protect the town. The British withdrew across the bridge and attempted to remove the planking. As the Americans advanced the British fired a volley that left two dead and several wounded. For the first time American were ordered to return fire. They killed two, wounded others, and caused the British to break ranks and flee to the town center.

The British commander regrouped his men and began the return march to Boston. Meanwhile, the Americans were joined by militia and Minute Men companies from other towns and moved parallel to the British along the roadway. At Meriam's Corner, British rear guard and the Americans exchanged shots, beginning a running fight that continued the rest of the day. The demoralized British troops were met by 1,000 reinforcements at Lexington. Nevertheless, the battle continued all the way back to Boston. When the fighting had ended, the British force of about 1,700 men had suffered 273 casualties. The American casualties totaled 95 out of an estimated 3,700 men.

The American determination to fight for their rights and homes demonstrated firm resolve to resist the British and convinced Americans they could defeat a professional British army. The bloodshed was an irrefutable argument for the creation of a provincial army under the Continental Congress, forcing other colonies to choose between the American cause or loyalty to the crown. The Revolutionary War lasted eight years, after which the American colonies became an independent sovereign nation.

The Boundary Study

Purpose and Need

There are significant historic properties outside the existing park boundary that are integral to the story of Minute Man NHP or are important to management of its current resources and that have been identified for possible inclusion in the park boundary. The most significant property is Colonel James Barrett's Farm, 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA, which was a hiding place for military stores that British troops were trying to seize in an action that precipitated the Revolutionary War, has recently been acquired by a nonprofit organization and may become available to the National Park Service after long being part of a family farm. Barrett's Farm is located west of the North Bridge. The boundary study evaluates inclusion of Colonel James Barrett's Farm, as well as abutting properties that once were part of the original farm. The study also examines inclusion of 37 North Great Road (Battle Road or Route 2A), which is a property contiguous to Minute Man NHP and the Battle Road, in Lincoln, MA. The "Proposed Boundary Inclusions" Map on Page 30 depicts the location of these properties in relation to the existing Minute Man National Historical Park boundary. At this time, Minute Man NHP does not see the need to include additional parcels in the park boundary.

No boundary adjustment outlined in this study may be accomplished without authorization by the United States Congress. The implementation of actions related to a boundary adjustment will depend on future funding and Servicewide priorities. The approval of a boundary adjustment does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the

proposed actions will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years into the future.

Boundary Study Criteria

The boundary study discusses the historical significance of the properties to determine how they fit into the thematic context of Minute Man NHP. Under normal circumstances, incorporating within the park boundary the parcels under review would be a minor boundary adjustment, but, since the park acreage is at its ceiling, a full boundary adjustment is needed. The boundary study evaluates the properties in question according to the following criteria published in *National Park Service Management Policies, 2006* (Section 3.5), at least one of which must be met for inclusion within the park boundary:

1. Protect significant resources and values, or to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;
2. Address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads; or
3. Otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes.

If an acquisition is to be made using appropriated funds, and would not be merely a technical boundary revision, recommendations for boundary changes would also have to meet the following criteria:

1. The added lands will be feasible to administer, considering their size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or exotic species.
2. Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

Elements of the Boundary Study

In evaluating the properties in question for possible inclusion within the park's boundary, the study process involved the following steps:

- Review of Minute Man NHP's enabling legislation and consideration of the park's purpose and significance.
- Evaluation of the current boundary's capacity to protect and preserve the cultural, natural, and scenic resources integral to the park.
- Evaluation of the properties proposed for inclusion within an expanded boundary for their history, ownership, cultural and natural resources, and potential to complement the purpose of the park.
- Development of alternatives for boundary adjustments.

- Application of the criteria for boundary adjustments for each alternative.
- Assessment of the potential impacts on cultural and natural resources associated with the alternatives considered.

Study Process

Scoping: Scoping has included consultation with researchers regarding sources of historical information; groups associated with the site (including property owners, business organizations, preservation groups, and the general public); and local, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations. A public scoping meeting allowed members of the public to provide ideas about a potential boundary study.

Public Involvement: The boundary study process includes a public scoping meeting and a public meeting to obtain comments about the draft study. Stakeholder meetings with interested groups and individuals have been held. The NPS PEPC website also has allowed for public comments on the boundary study to be submitted.

Consultation and Compliance: Preparation of the Minute Man NHP Boundary Study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment has been prepared integrally and analyzes a range of alternatives. The Massachusetts Historic Commission (SHPO), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Towns of Concord, and Lincoln, MA, have been consulted, as have been other federal, state, and local agencies whose interest, authority, or jurisdiction are important to the selection of alternatives for implementation. The Northeast Regional Director serves as the approving official for all compliance documents relating to the study.

Studies and Plans Relative to Minute Man National Historical Park

The National Park Service has undertaken several plans and studies related to Minute Man NHP, which ultimately relate to the boundary study. They are summarized below:

Boston National Historic Sites Commission. *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States.* Washington, DC: 1958.

This study provided the background for the legislation that established Minute Man NHP in 1959. The study recognized the need to preserve and interpret the Battle Road, mentioning an earlier report from 1925 by landscape architect Arthur A. Shurtleff that called for preservation of the Battle Road. The 1958 study mentioned the importance of the Barrett Farm to the proposed Minute Man National Park unit, citing the fact that the colonists had hidden significant military stores at the Barrett Farm in the winter and spring of 1775. The report recounted how British troops had searched the Barrett Farm on April 19, 1775, but had found little because the ammunition, cannon, and other stores had been well concealed. The search for weapons in Concord led directly to the engagement between British regulars and the local militia that sparked the American Revolution.

The Historic Sites Commission report noted that musket balls and flints had been hidden in barrels in the farm house attic and that the front room was Colonel Barrett's "Muster Room," where he conferred with officers and recruits of the Concord militia, which he commanded. The 1958 report stated that the original Barrett Farm House was virtually intact.

The report observed that “some of the finest land under tillage in Concord today is on the farm of 100 acres settled about 1660 by the ancestors of Col. James Barrett...” The report went on the state: “The prospect of the family of the present owner continuing to operate the place for large-scale vegetable gardening and field crops is promising.....” Since the farm was under cultivation, the study thought it was appropriate to erect a “suitable marker” to “reveal its identity and importance.” The farm was not located near either of the two proposed National Park units, at the North Bridge and along the Battle Road. The Historic Sites Commission report recommended creating a 20-mile historic trail starting at Hanover Street in the North End of Boston, stretching out through Lexington and Concord, and ending at the Barrett Farm.¹ The historic trail would have markers at each historic site. Although the National Park Service did not erect a plaque, the Old Concord Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, did erect a plaque at Barrett’s Farm in 1961. The 1958 report stated that the park, which would not encompass every historic site in the area, would serve as “a center of information and orientation for the entire historic route.”

Minute Man National Historical Park. *Master Plan*. Concord, MA: Minute Man National Historical Park, 1965.

This *Master Plan* established the direction for many developments at Minute Man NHP, including restoring the Battle Road to its 18th-century appearance. The *Master Plan*, with extensive maps, prioritized historic buildings for acquisition and preservation and identified parking areas along the Battle Road. It did not include discussion of any initiatives at Barrett’s Farm because the farm was not identified for acquisition.

Letter of August 29, 1967 to Northeast Regional Director concerning Colonel James Barrett House.

This letter to the Northeast Regional Director from Edwin W. Small, Project Coordinator, Boston National Park Service Group, Boston, MA, discussed strategies for preserving the Barrett Farm. The letter indicated that the farm was within a historic district administered by the Concord Historic Districts Commission. It mentioned, however, that the farm was still subject to development pressures and that “we believe consideration should also be given to adding the house and at least portions of the farm” to the Minute Man NHP boundary. The letter states that the Minute Man NHP Superintendent supported this position. There is no evidence that anything was done to pursue this objective.

Minute Man National Historical Park. *General Management Plan*. Concord, MA: Minute Man National Historical Park, 1989.

This 1989 *General Management Plan* (GMP), which was amended in 1991, serves as the guidance document for the development of Minute Man NHP. Since much of it has been implemented and new issues and opportunities have arisen, the GMP is in need of a comprehensive amendment. The 1989 GMP recognized the need to cope with encroaching development in the Minute Man NHP area. It focused on reestablishing the appearance of the 1775 landscape along the Battle Road in order to help the public better appreciate the running

¹ Boston National Historic Sites Commission. *The Lexington-Concord Battle Road: Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States*. (Washington, DC: 1958), p. 131.

battle that took place there on April 19, 1775. The GMP called for restoring sections of the historic, unpaved surface of the Battle Road, preserving historic buildings, and restoring the general 18th-century landscape character of selected areas. Visitors would be able to walk the restored sections of the Battle Road. At the North Bridge Unit, the park would make various improvements to optimize the visitor experience and preserve the commemorative character of the unit.

Barrett Farm Historic District, Town of Concord, MA

In 1961, the Town of Concord established four historic districts, one of which was the Barrett Farm Historic District. The Barrett Farm Historic District stretches along the north side of the Assabet River past the point where it joins with the Sudbury River to form the Concord River—here the town historic district abuts the North Bridge Unit of Minute Man NHP. The historic district takes in both sides of Lowell Road and Barrett’s Mill Road. The Concord Historic Districts Commission has responsibility for reviewing changes to the exterior appearance of buildings in the district and issuing permits for demolition and removal of buildings.

Part Two: Resource Description

Properties Assessed for Inclusion in Boundary Adjustment

There are two sets of parcels identified for inclusion in the adjusted boundary for Minute Man NHP. The first ten parcels are located on 64 acres of land in Concord, MA, two miles east of the North Bridge Unit of the Minute Man NHP. They include one parcel where the 1705 Barrett Farm House is located and nine surrounding parcels, which were once part of Barrett’s Farm and continue to convey the appearance of open space. The other parcel, which has 3 acres, is located in Lincoln, MA, contiguous to the Battle Road Unit of Minute Man NHP. A map of the Barrett’s Farm parcels is depicted on page 31, and a map of parcel on the Battle Road, Lincoln, MA. is on page 32. The privately owned parcels could be acquired by the park or preserved through an agreement, while the parcels owned by the Town of Concord would be protected under an agreement between NPS and the Town.

Concord, MA—Barrett’s Farm House and Surrounding Parcels

1. Save Our Heritage, Inc., 448 Barrett’s Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-4
Book/Page: 10798/222
Area: 3.438 acres
Zone: Residence A (Single-Family)
Use: Barrett Farm House (1705)

2. Michael McGrath, 440 Barrett’s Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-4-1
Book/Page: 23647/377
Acres: .948 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Parcel with new house (2005) sold to Michael McGrath as part of purchase of 448 Barrett’s Mill Road

3. Patrick J. McGrath, 449 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-8
Book/Page: 23647/378
Area: 1.89 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Includes farm house (1995) and two farm buildings

4. Town of Concord, 42A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-7
Book/Page: 19340/283
Area: 5.21 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Town Natural Resources Division land; this is conservation land with 1.6 acres leased to Patrick McGrath for agriculture.

5. Town of Concord, 52A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-9
Book/Page: 12503/123
Area: 11.95 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Town Natural Resources Division land; this is conservation land with 1.6 acres leased to Patrick McGrath for agriculture.

6. Town of Concord, 33A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1950-2
Book/Page: 13354/030
Area: 14.7 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Town Natural Resources Division conservation land

7. Concord Public Schools, 41A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-5
Book/Page: 11511/698
Area: 7.47 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Open space leased for farming

8. Town of Concord, 15B Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1950
Book/Page: 12383/240
Area: 10 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Town Natural Resources Division conservation land

9. Town of Concord, 52X Barrett's Mill Road, Town of Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-10
Book/Page: 11993/524
Area: 6.8 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Town Natural Resources Division conservation land

10. Mark W. & Colleen Smith Giddings, 474 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA 01742

Parcel ID: 1986-3
Book/Page: 24980/408
Area: 1.705 acres
Zone: Residence A
Use: Private residence

Lincoln, MA—Battle Road/North Great Road

11. Ellen L. Kennelly, 37 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

Parcel ID: 12 13 0
Area: 3 acres
Zone: R-1 Single-family Residence
Use: Single-family house (c. 1956)

Historical Significance of Barrett's Farm and the Brooks Family Properties on Battle Road

The most significant property assessed for inclusion in the Minute Man NHP boundary is the Colonel James Barrett Farm House. The Barrett House was the home of Colonel James Barrett (1710-1779), Revolutionary War patriot and one of the leading figures in the events leading up to the British march on Concord in April, 1775. The historic farm house is located at 448 Barrett's Mill Road, two miles from Concord Center. From the 18th into the 21st centuries, this was the main house for the farm. All but two abutting parcels have been sold off for ownership by other parties, ranging from the Town of Concord to private homeowners.

The Barrett family settled in Concord in the mid-17th century. Colonel Barrett was born in the farm house, built by his father Benjamin in 1705. The Barrett Farm had 200 acres, on which Colonel Barrett raised cattle that were sold to West Indian planters and oats, some of which was sold to British troops in Boston in the early 1770s. James's brother Thomas Barrett owned a mill near the farm on Spencer's Brook that ground corn and rye and cut logs into boards.

Colonel Barrett was "the most respected political figure in town," according to Robert A. Gross, in *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976). He served as selectman, town meeting moderator, militia officer, and representative to the Massachusetts General Court between 1768 and 1777. He regularly represented Concord at county and state conventions held before and during the Revolution. As a member of the General Court, he supported the Massachusetts Circular Letter (1768), which stated constitutional objections to British taxation. In 1772, he helped form the Committee of Correspondence for Concord, joining the network of patriots created by Samuel Adams.

Barrett, who commanded Concord's militia, superintended the collection of military stores for the Massachusetts Committee of Public Safety in late 1774 and early 1775 in preparation for resisting the British military. Munitions were being stored in Concord because it was 16 miles distant from Boston and was the meeting place of the Provincial Congress. Colonel Barrett used his own barn and outbuildings as well as two dozen other buildings in Concord to store powder, flour, cannon, and firearms necessary for military operations. David Hackett Fischer, in *Paul Revere's Ride* (1994), called Barrett's Farm an "important arsenal." The amount of supplies that Colonel Barrett collected indicated the colonists were raising an army: 10 tons of musket balls and cartridges, 35 half barrels of powder, 350 tents, 80 barrels of beef, and many other kinds of supplies in great quantities.

When General Thomas Gage learned about the colonists' efforts to arm themselves, he decided to march on Concord and seize the munitions. Since spies identified Colonel Barrett as a primary suspect, General Gage ordered his troops to search Barrett's property and arrest him. Paul Revere, however, caught wind of the British plans and rode to Concord on April 8, 1775 to warn Colonel Barrett and other patriots so that they should move the military stores. They transferred much of the munitions to Sudbury, Stow, and other communities. Paul Revere's warning the night of April 18 provided further impetus to conceal the munitions. Colonel Barrett's sons hid four brass cannons stolen from the British Army by planting the cannons in a freshly plowed field. In his attic, they covered barrels of ammunition with feathers.

On April 19, 1775, British troops marched on Concord, first engaging in a deadly skirmish with the Lexington militia. When they reached Concord, four companies under Captain Lawrence Parsons proceeded to Barrett's Farm, while other companies searched the town and stationed themselves at the North Bridge. Colonel Barrett, who was commanding the Concord militia near the North Bridge, galloped home to alert his family of the British approach, then returned to his troops through the woods to avoid the British.

When the British soldiers reached Barrett's Farm, they found no weapons and only a couple of cannon carriages, which they burned. They wanted to arrest Barrett's son Stephen and send him "to England for trial," but Stephen's mother Rebecca said he was the colonel's son and that the colonel, the man they wanted, was away. The troops ordered Mrs. Barrett to serve them breakfast. They offered her payment, but she declined. When the captain threw coins into her lap, she replied, "This is the price of blood."²

When the British troops at Barrett's Farm heard shots coming from the direction of the North Bridge, they hurried back to the bridge. They found that an engagement had taken place between the local militia and British troops and a number of their comrades lay dead or wounded. Colonel Barrett had given the order to the assembled militia and Minute Men to advance upon the North Bridge because he feared that the British had found the military stores concealed in Concord Center and were setting the town on fire. He wanted to make a show of force, but ordered his troops not to fire first and fire only if fired upon. When British troops fired the first shots, the militia responded with volleys that drove the redcoats from the bridge and precipitated a running battle that did not end until nightfall back in Boston. The Revolutionary War had begun.

In 1776, Colonel Barrett stepped down as an elected official, but continued to recruit troops for the Continental Army in the Concord area. He died in 1779, and his son Peter inherited the farm

² Lemuel Shattuck, *A History of the Town of Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: Russell, Odiorne & Co., 1835), p. 109.

and a leading social position. According to historian Robert Gross, “The Barretts remained Concord’s premier political family down to the Age of Jackson.” The Barrett family maintained ownership of the farm house until 1905, when they sold it to the McGrath family, which owned it until 2005. The farm house has been remarkably well preserved so that it can interpret the events of April, 1775.

The 1959 federal legislation establishing Minute Man NHP, PL 86-321, supported the acquisition of Barrett’s Farm and the development of general agreements with surrounding properties to preserve them as open space. The legislation states that Minute Man NHP’s purpose is “to preserve for the benefit of the American people certain historic structure and properties of outstanding national significance associated with the opening of The War of the American Revolution...” including “a number of historic properties, buildings, sites, and objects in Boston, Massachusetts, and the vicinity thereof, including the road and road sites between Lexington and Concord, are intimately connected with the events that opened the war, and consequently, merit preservation and interpretation in the public interest as prime examples of the Nation’s historic heritage.”

The Colonel James Barrett Farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The National Register nomination included the properties at 448 and 43 B Barrett’s Mill Road, as well as the adjacent parcel to the west, 474 Barrett’s Mill Road. In 1973, 474 Barrett’s Mill Road was subdivided from the farm house parcel and a house was built on that site. This parcel is proposed for inclusion within the MIMA boundary adjustment for a possible friendly acquisition if the owner wants to sell the property. In 1961, Barrett’s Farm made part of the Barrett Farm Historic District, which was established by the Town of Concord. The American Battlefield Protection Program survey for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 (2007), organized by the NPS, listed the Barrett Farm in the database of significant sites related to the Revolutionary War, finding that it is only one of 17 Revolutionary War sites, out of 463 considered, likely “to meet the criteria for inclusion within the National Park System.”

This area of the Battle Road Unit where 37 North Great Road (Battle Road), Lincoln, is where militia companies joined the fighting with British troops on their retreat to Boston on April 19, 1775. This area had been settled in the 18th century by members of the extended Brooks family. The property in question, 37 North Great Road, abuts the Joshua Brooks House, which has recently been rehabilitated by Minute Man NHP. Besides the Joshua Brooks House, there are three neighboring historic Brooks family houses within the park along the Battle Road—Noah Brooks Tavern, Samuel Brooks House, and Job Brooks House.

Part Three: Alternatives and Application of National Park Service Criteria for Boundary Adjustments

Application of Criteria for Boundary Adjustments

This boundary study evaluates the properties in question according to the following criteria published in *National Park Service Management Policies 2006* (Section 3.5), at least one of which must be met for inclusion within a new park boundary:

1. Protect significant resources and values, or to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;

2. Address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads; or
3. Otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes.

If an acquisition is to be made using appropriated funds, and would not be merely a technical boundary revision, recommendations for boundary changes would also have to meet the following criteria:

1. The added lands will be feasible to administer, considering their size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or exotic species.
2. Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under this alternative, the Minute Man National Historical Park boundary would remain unchanged. The NHP would continue to manage 971 acres and maintain its three units: Battle Road Unit, North Bridge Unit, and Wayside Unit. It is unclear what would happen to Barrett's Farm House, since the private nonprofit organization that currently owns it, Save Our Heritage, Inc., is not prepared to manage it long term and seeks an owner who will preserve its historic features and make it accessible to the public for interpretation. No potential custodian has been identified for Barrett's Farm House besides the Minute Man NHP, so there is concern that Barrett's Farm House might not be preserved and be made accessible to the public.

Most of the parcels of land abutting Barrett's Farm House are currently preserved as open space, resembling the farm land that historically surrounded the farm house. The parcels at 33A, 42A, and 52A Barrett's Mill Road are owned by the Town of Concord Natural Resources Division, but they may not be conserved as agricultural land on a permanent basis in concert with the purposes of the preservation and interpretation of Barrett's Farm. They could be allowed to return to forest land. In addition, inclusion of these parcels would foster collaborative management and stewardship of related lands in potentially different ownership. The 7.47-acre parcel at 41A Barrett's Mill Road is owned by the Concord Public Schools and could be developed for a school building or another use. The house at 449 Barrett's Mill Road, owned by Patrick McGrath, could be redeveloped, although it would have constraints on redevelopment or demolition imposed by the Concord Historic Districts Commission, which has responsibility for approving changes to the exterior appearance of buildings in the district and issuing permits for their demolition and removal.

In the Battle Road Unit, in Lincoln, MA, part of the parcel adjacent the NPS-owned Joshua Brooks House at 41 North Great Road—37 North Great Road—would remain outside the boundary of the park and in private ownership. Currently, the front half of 37 North Great Road is in the park boundary, but the back half, with a single-family home, is not. Without having this area in the boundary, it may be difficult for the park to insure compatible development on the parcel.

Alternative 2: Adjust the Boundary to Preserve Barrett's Farm and the Area around the Joshua Brooks House

Under Alternative 2, Minute Man NHP would expand its boundary to incorporate ten properties located approximately two miles from the North Bridge Unit. Minute Man NHP would then be able to acquire, manage, and/or interpret key parcels if they became available and develop general agreements with other separately owned properties to insure their preservation and interpretation in concert with Barrett's Farm House. Identified for acquisition by NPS is the Barrett Farm House, 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA. Minute Man NHP would be able to offer visits of the interior of Barrett's Farm House and develop exhibits and cooperative programming with local partner historical organizations. If funding or partnerships were not forthcoming, Minute Man NHP would be able to maintain the farm house and interpret its history in a more modest way.

Behind the farm house is 440 Barrett's Mill Road, a .948-acre parcel, with a new house. This parcel has been transferred to Michael McGrath by Save Our Heritage, Inc., as part of the sale transaction of the historic Barrett Farm House. The Town of Concord holds an option to purchase the property when Mr. McGrath vacates it. If Minute Man NHP owned the Barrett Farm House, it would have the right-of-first-refusal to purchase 440 Barrett's Mill Road through the Town of Concord, if and when Mr. McGrath vacates the property. Minute Man NHP would be able to incorporate it into the Barrett's Farm House parcel.

Minute Man NHP would work to develop general agreements with other properties within the new boundary, which include 15B, 33A, 41A, 42A, 52A, 52X, 449, and 474 Barrett's Mill Road. These properties were part of the Barrett Farm in the 18th century, when it encompassed 200 acres. The general agreements would insure that these properties would continue to be kept as open space and provide a sense of the agricultural landscape that historically has existed in this part of Concord since the 17th century. The general agreements would encourage consultation in managing the properties between Minute Man NHP and the Town of Concord. Minute Man NHP could also work with the Town of Concord to create an overlay zone that would control development on properties in the boundary so that they respected the scale and historic character of Barrett's Farm and its cultural landscape.

The parcels at 15B, 33A, 41A, 42A, 52A, and 52X Barrett's Mill Road are town-owned, while 449 and 474 Barrett's Mill Road are privately owned. The parcels at 33A, 42A, and 52X Barrett's Mill Road abut the Assabet River, which is one of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers. By incorporating these town conservation lands, whose property line extends to the middle of the river, into the park boundary, Minute Man NHP would emphasize the connection that Barrett's Farm had to the Assabet River going back to the mid-17th century. By including Barrett's Farm parcels in the Minute Man NHP boundary, it would allow Minute Man NHP to coordinate activities there with the activities of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

The boundary study would include a private home at 474 Barrett's Farm Road. The house is directly next door to the Barrett Farm House and was an open field until a house was built there during the 1970s. This property would be included within the park boundary so that, if it were ever offered for sale, the NPS would be able to acquire the parcel.

The parcels at 15B, 33A, 41A, 42A, 52A, and 52X Barrett's Mill Road make up approximately 57 acres of open space owned by the Town of Concord. The parcels at 15B, 33A, 42A, 52A, and 52X Barrett's Mill Road are town conservation lands. The parcel at 41A Barrett's Mill Road is

open land owned by the Concord Public Schools. Parts of 42A and 52A Barrett's Mill Road are leased to Patrick McGrath for farming purposes. Patrick McGrath owns 449 Barrett's Mill Road, which includes a farm house and two farm buildings in between those two parcels. The 449 Barrett's Mill Road parcel has virtually no room for farming, so Mr. McGrath leases town conservation lands for his farm land, which grows market produce sold at the site. The property at 474 Barrett's Mill Road was part of the original farm and was included in the National Register nomination in 1973.

This alternative also would insure that no new, incompatible development would occur on a Battle Road parcel adjacent to the Joshua Brooks House (1781), 41 North Great Road, Lincoln. It would also ensure the protection of Elm Brook, an important feature of the historic landscape and an important natural resource within the park. This historic building on the Battle Road (also called North Great Road) has been rehabilitated by Minute Man NHP, in fulfillment of the 1989 Minute Man NHP GMP, which called for restoring much of the Battle Road to its 1775 appearance.

The final parcel proposed for inclusion within a new park boundary is 37 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA, a 3-acre parcel which has a single-family home. The private home (c. 1956) stands behind the Joshua Brooks House on an unpaved right-of-way. The parcel has a dogleg, or a sharp bend, that reaches out to and fronts on North Great Road. The dogleg is within the boundary of the National Historical Park, but the part of the parcel with the house is not within the boundary. The proposal is to include the entire parcel within the park boundary. Since Elm Brook flows through the dogleg and under the Battle Road to the other side of the road, the dogleg cannot be built upon. The right-of-way connecting this parcel to North Great Road passes between the Joshua Brooks House and Noah Brooks Tavern.

On the 37 North Great Road parcel, Minute Man NHP would seek to obtain a conservation easement on or acquire the dogleg (approximately 1.5 acres), the part of the parcel that abuts the Battle Road and through which flows Elm Brook. The rear part of the parcel, where a house is located, could continue to remain in private ownership, although Minute Man NHP might seek an agreement with the owner for the right-of-first-refusal to purchase the property if it were to be sold. Acquiring the house would insure protection of this area. The actions connected to the boundary adjustment would help preserve the historic appearance of the Battle Road as well as protect Elm Brook. If acquired, this dogleg would be managed by NPS in conjunction with the adjacent Joshua Brooks House.

The 1989 Minute Man GMP identified part of this parcel for acquisition, but this has not taken place because the parcel in question lies partly within and partly outside the Minute Man NHP boundary. A boundary adjustment to include the entire parcel is needed for Minute Man NHP to effect the necessary protection on this parcel.

This area of the Battle Road Unit is where militia companies joined the fighting with British troops on their retreat to Boston on April 19, 1775. This area had been settled in the 18th century by members of the extended Brooks family. Besides the Joshua Brooks House, there are three neighboring historic Brooks family houses within the park along the Battle Road—Noah Brooks Tavern, Samuel Brooks House, and Job Brooks House.

The exterior of the Joshua Brooks House has been rehabilitated. The Joshua Brooks House is undergoing interior rehabilitation with the ultimate objective of opening it to the public for selected interpretive events.

One of the goals of Minute Man NHP is to alleviate threats of scenic impairment to the historic landscape of the Battle Road and to prevent new, intrusive development. Minute Man NHP seeks to reach an agreement with the owner of the above-mentioned parcel. This would enable the National Historical Park, which owns the Joshua Brooks House, to facilitate the preservation and management of the property.

No boundary adjustment outlined in this study may be accomplished without authorization by the United States Congress. The implementation of actions related to a boundary adjustment will depend on future funding and Servicewide priorities. The approval of a boundary adjustment does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the proposed actions will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years into the future.

This alternative meets all three criteria for including properties in a new park boundary:

Criterion 1. This alternative protects significant resources and values or tries to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes.

The Colonel James Barrett Farm was the home of Colonel James Barrett, one of the leading figures in the events leading up to the British march on Concord in April, 1775. Colonel Barrett stored military supplies at his farm, which British troops sought to seize. The Barrett Farm House has a great deal of integrity and is able to interpret to the public the important historical events that took place there at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The farm's current owner Save Our Heritage, Inc., lacks the resources to preserve the historic farm and interpret its history to the public over the long term. Alternative 2 would enable Minute Man NHP to preserve and interpret Barrett's Farm. It would enhance opportunities for public enjoyment by broadening the story of the first day of the Revolutionary War that is interpreted by Minute Man NHP by incorporating the story of Barrett's Farm as the leading munitions storage place of the patriot militias.

By developing general agreements to preserve the open space on the properties that surround Barrett's Farm House, Minute Man NHP would help insure that this area will continue to resemble the agricultural land that was there in 1775. The original farm had approximately 200 acres, and the ten parcels within the boundary around Barrett's Farm House would have approximately 64 acres. This arrangement will allow the visitor to understand what the landscape of Concord was like at the time of the American Revolution. By being eligible to acquire abutting parcels with private homes if they were ever offered for sale, Minute Man NHP would be able to maintain the traditional open landscape that historically surrounded the Barrett Farm House.

The 1989 Minute Man NHP General Management Plan listed management goals and objectives that support preservation and interpretation of Barrett's Farm:

- Protect and restore the historic scene of April 19, 1775, or the landscape and associated cultural resources in selected areas.
- Interpret resources that contribute to an understanding of the events of April 19, 1775, and an appreciation for the social, economic, and political environment at that time, including aspects of the 18th-century agriculture, structures, and social environment.
- Protect, rehabilitate, and selectively preserve 18th- and 19th-century buildings for interpretation, visitor use, and adaptive reuse for park purposes.

Criterion 2. Address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or natural features or roads.

This alternative would help protect the historic Joshua Brooks House, on the Battle Road in Lincoln. It would create a logical boundary delineation in the case of the 37 North Great Road property, part of which lies within the boundary of Minute Man National Historical Park and part of which does not.

Criterion 3. Protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling the park's purposes.

Elm Brook and the area around the Joshua Brooks House are important for the preservation and interpretation of the Battle Road and the events of April 19, 1775. In order to maintain the historic landscape around this free-flowing stream and farm house, the property needs to be included within the park's boundary. It is also important to protect the natural resources of Elm Brook.

The 1989 Minute Man NHP General Management Plan listed management goals and objectives that support preservation and interpretation of the Joshua Brooks House and protection of abutting parcels located off the Battle Road that are key to understanding the events of April, 1775:

- Protect and restore the historic scene of April 19, 1775, or the landscape and associated cultural resources in selected areas.
- Protect the scene of the fighting on April 19, 1775, by acquiring properties recommended for acquisition in the "Land Protection" section of the plan through an opportunity-purchase basis, subject to the availability of funds; that is, when owners offer the property and funds are available.

There are two additional boundary adjustment criteria that must be met if acquisition using appropriated funds is entailed:

Criterion 1. The added lands will be feasible to administer considering their size, configuration, ownership, hazardous substances, costs, the views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions, and other factors such as the presence of exotic species.

It would be feasible for Minute Man NHP to administer the Barrett's Farm parcels because they are only two miles from the park's North Bridge Unit. Minute Man NHP already manages 43 historic buildings, 41 sites, 10 structures, and 11 objects stretched along approximately eight miles. The site has no identified exotic species or hazardous substances. The Town of Concord, MA, supports this alternative because it would preserve one of the community's most historic buildings. Besides protecting a significant historic resource, impacts on the local community would be negligible, since visitation at the site during the year would be small. No property taxes would be lost to the municipality because the farm house is currently owned by a nonprofit organization, Save Our Heritage, Inc.

It would be feasible for Minute Man NHP to manage the property abutting the Joshua Brooks House because it is adjacent to properties that it already owns and manages. Little would have to

be done, especially if there were a preservation easement granted on the privately-owned property. There are no identified hazardous substances on the parcel. This alternative would preserve existing views, the historic context, and Elm Brook. It would allow for the possibility of a pedestrian/wildlife passage and improved stream ecology. This alternative would further the preservation of the Battle Road corridor and would be consistent with community preservation goals. Besides protecting a significant historic resource, impacts on the local community would be negligible, since no increase in visitation at the site would be anticipated.

Criterion 2. Other alternatives and resource protection are not adequate.

Since the establishment of Minute Man NHP in 1959, efforts to acquire Barrett's Farm House have been unsuccessful. In 2005, Save Our Heritage, Inc., purchased Barrett's Farm House to insure the farm house's continued preservation. Save Our Heritage, Inc., was able to purchase the property and can maintain it for a short time, but is not prepared to retain it over the long term. It hopes that it will eventually become part of Minute Man NHP. The mission of Save Our Heritage, Inc., a local private nonprofit organization, is to protect nationally important historical, cultural, and natural resources related to the American Revolution, the American Environmental Movement, and the American Literary Renaissance in Concord, Bedford, Lincoln, and Lexington, MA. It was not established to own, manage, or interpret historic properties over a long period of time.

In 2005, Save Our Heritage, Inc., acquired Barrett's Farm House with the intention of making it available to Minute Man NHP, which owns and manages many historic properties and whose core mission is to preserve and interpret historic sites related to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. No other public or private entity has been identified that can preserve the historic property and make it accessible to the public. Since Minute Man NHP already owns, manages, and interprets many historic structures, it should be fairly simple to add Barrett's Farm House to its holdings.

Save Our Heritage, Inc., also purchased 440 Barrett's Mill Road. On this vacant parcel behind the historic farm house, Save Our Heritage, Inc., built a new house for Michael McGrath to live in after vacating the farm house. The house has been transferred to Michael McGrath with the condition that the Town of Concord would hold an option to purchase the property on behalf of NPS or qualified nonprofit organizations for fixed price of \$200,000 when Mr. McGrath vacates the property. The option agreement assigns the right to purchase the property from the Town according to the following order: first, the owner of the Barrett Farm House, whether it is owned by Minute Man NHP, another government entity, or a nonprofit organization; the Barrett Farm House owner, if it is a private party (the agreement would impose more development restrictions on the owner); another appropriate nonprofit historic preservation organization; a nonprofit organization that would make the house available as affordable housing; a qualified private owner purchasing it as affordable housing; and finally, the Town of Concord.

If Minute Man NHP acquired the property and added it to Barrett's Farm House, Minute Man NHP would have the option of moving the house elsewhere and returning the parcel to farmland.

The properties surrounding the Barrett's Farm parcels are not guaranteed to be utilized in a manner that would be compatible with preservation and interpretation of the farm without the agreements that would be sought with the adoption of the boundary adjustment.

This alternative also would insure protection of Elm Brook and insure that no new, incompatible development occurs on a parcel adjacent to the Joshua Brooks House, on the Battle Road in

Lincoln. No parties other than Minute Man NHP, the lead entity in maintaining the historic appearance of the Battle Road cultural landscape, have expressed an interest in protecting this parcel either by acquiring it or by acquiring preservation easements on it. Therefore, the preservation measures proposed in Alternative 2 require involvement of Minute Man NHP.

Part Four: Environmental Assessment of Alternatives

Affected Environment

The affected environment assessed for this boundary study includes two areas—the Barrett’s Farm area in Concord, MA, and the parcel in the rear of the Joshua Brooks House, on the Battle Road in Lincoln, MA. The Barrett’s Farm area is located two miles west of the North Bridge Unit and has particular cultural and natural characteristics. The parcel that abuts the Brooks House has virtually the same affected environment as that house, which is part of the Battle Road Unit of Minute Man NHP.

Under the “Potential Impacts of Alternatives,” there is a discussion of specific topics area which have impacts. The topic areas are addressed in the “Affected Environment” section, while the actual impacts are discussed in the “Potential Impacts” section. The impact topics, which are listed under “Mandatory Topics,” Section 4.5.F.2 in *Director’s Order-12 Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making*, were selected for analysis by determining which park resources or related elements would be affected by actions proposed under the alternatives. Those environmental concerns listed under “Mandatory Topics” that were not affected by the alternatives have been eliminated from further consideration. They include: 1) possible conflicts between the proposed alternatives and land use plans, policies or controls for the area concerned; 2) energy requirements and conservation potential; 3) urban quality, historic and cultural resources, and design of the built environment; socially or economically disadvantaged populations; 4) ecologically critical areas; 5) public health and safety; 6) sacred sites; 7) Indian Trust resources. The topics areas being analyzed are discussed below.

Cultural Resources

The Colonel James Barrett Farm House is located at 448 Barrett’s Mill Road, two miles from the North Bridge Unit. From the 18th through the 20th centuries, this was the main house for the farm. The Barrett Farm House faces south with a setback of 15 feet from Barrett’s Mill Road. It is a typical New England farm house, of frame construction, two-and-one-half stories high with a gable roof. Its present appearance is the result of various constructions, alterations, and additions dating from 1705 to the early 20th century. The farm itself, situated on the north bank of the Assabet River, was originally 200 acres, but today the parcel has 4.4 acres. Other parties own the other sections of the farm, with some parcels having houses and others being open space, some of it used for farming.

Sources that describe the house include National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form (1973); Orville W. Carroll, “Notes Taken in April of 1977 on the Architectural Investigation of the Colonel James Barrett House, 448 Barrett’s Mill Road, Concord, Massachusetts (1977); and Frederic C. Detwiller, “Barrett Farm House Report on Preservation Potential” (June 1, 2005).

The central portion of the farm house is the oldest. Built by Benjamin Barrett, it dates from 1705. It was originally a one- or two-story house, one room deep. To the west of the house is a three-story wing, set back about eight feet from the main façade. It was built c. 1760 by James Barrett and is two bays wide with an entrance on the east side of the south front. The result was essentially what we see now, a five-bay-wide, two-and-one-half story façade with center entrance and large central chimney. Further developments occurred in the years 1796-1815 and 1820-1830, under the ownership of Peter Barrett and Prescott Barrett. A second floor was added to the rear of the main house, and a west ell was built. New clapboards were added and the kitchen fireplace was updated.

Between 1860 and 1875, an east shed was added, but it has been demolished. Between 1890 and 1915, the heavy window cornices of the 18th-century portions of the house were removed, the windows enlarged, and two-over-one sash windows installed. A wooden door hood with elaborately turned brackets was added above the main entrance, the roof eaves were extended, and a chimney added to the north slope of the west wing roof. The entire house was resheathed with clapboards and painted for the first time. Shutters were added at the windows. Later additions included electrical, plumbing, and heating systems.

The interior of the house is remarkably intact in all rooms except the rear keeping room. Woodwork of fine quality exists in the paneling (1720) of the west front room and in the exceptional featheredge sheathing on the stairway. There are uncased chamfered beams in the main rooms on the first floor and beaded finished beams in the chambers above.

Outer buildings at Barrett's Farm were lost in the 1970s. They included two detached barns west of the main house and the east shed, which was attached to the farm house.

The Colonel James Barrett Farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is the anchor of the Barrett Farm Historic District, which was established by the Town of Concord in 1961.

According to a report by New England Landmarks commissioned by Save Our Heritage (June 1, 2005), the Barrett Farm House "contains most of its original features – stairways, doors, hardware, paneling, fireplaces, chimney, etc." Preservation treatment of the house at Barrett's Farm would meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Since acquiring the farm house in 2005, Save Our Heritage, Inc., has initiated structural stabilization and removed overgrown vegetation around the house. Save Our Heritage, Inc., received a Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant for \$220,000 in FY2006 to address moisture penetration in the Barrett Farm House. The SAT grant requires that all work carried out under the grant will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic properties; that the principals involved will meet the Secretary's Professional Qualification Standards; that all work will be coordinated with the SHPO; and that the work will follow only after compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. The SAT grant is a federal grant administered by the National Park Service, WASO, demonstrating another federal interest in this property.

The Joshua Brooks House is part of an extensive stretch of the Battle Road that was inhabited by the Brooks family and its descendants since the 1650s. The parcel abutting the Joshua Brooks House was originally part of the historic Brooks family farms. According to historian Brian Donahue, the Joshua Brooks farm used Elm Brook to drain the surrounding lands for agricultural

uses, which included tillage, pasturage, and hay meadows.³ The parcel in questions and abutting parcels were subdivided in the 20th century for residential use.

There are most likely archaeological resources on the Barrett's Farm and there may be archaeological resources on the Battle Road parcel that are being assessed for inclusion in a new boundary.

Natural Resources

Soils and Agricultural Lands

The properties at Barrett's Farm and abutting the Joshua Brooks House on Battle Road are located in an area characterized by flat plains and low-rolling hills, which are composed on unconsolidated glacial deposits that overlie a complex geology of metamorphic and igneous bedrock.

The dominant soil in the Barrett's Farm area is Windsor Loamy Sand at 0-3% slopes. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's 1995 Interim Soil Survey Report for Middlesex County, MA, this soil type designates "locally important farmland." The Barrett's Farm area appears to have the only "prime" farmland soil in the area (Sudbury fine sandy loam, 3-8% slope), but it covers only a small patch. A small patch of hydric soil (Saco mucky silt loam) is present in the Barrett's Farm area. A small patch of hydric soil (Scarboro mucky fine sandy loam) is present near the parcel in the Battle Road Unit, through which runs Elm Brook.

Water

Minute Man NHP lies along watershed boundaries of the Concord River flowing north, the Shawsheen River flowing northeast, and the Charles River flowing east. Of the ten parcels at Barrett's Farm assessed for inclusion in a new boundary, 33A 42A, and 52X Barrett's Mill Road abut the Assabet River, which flows into the Concord River a mile downriver from the farm. The area bordering the river is essentially wetlands. Elm Brook flows through the 37 North Great Road parcel abutting the Joshua Brooks House, then underneath the Battle Road into the park's broad Elm Brook wetland, and on to join the Shawsheen River.

Wetlands

There are wetlands on Town Conservation lands near Barrett's Farm and along Elm Brook, which flows through 37 North Great Road abutting the Joshua Brooks House and into the park.

Wildlife

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service New England Office, there are no listed species in the study area. Wildlife inhabiting Minute Man NHP typically includes habitat generalists common to suburban/rural areas in eastern Massachusetts. Commoner species include gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), a variety of shrews and mice, starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), painted turtle

³ Brian Donahue, "Plowland, Pastureland, Woodland and Meadow: Husbandry in Concord, Massachusetts, 1635-1771," Ph.D. diss., Brandeis University, 1994, pp. 256-269, 326, 327, 329, 330.

(*Chrysemys picta*) and leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*). Less common (although sometimes regionally abundant) species in the project area include fisher (*Martes pennanti*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*).

Visitor Experience

Currently visitors can drive by the Barrett Farm House on Barrett's Mill Road, but there are no interpretive signs outside the house or any access offered to the public. The public may enter the abutting Town of Concord conservation lands, but there is no indication that they were once part of Barrett's Farm, nor what the historical significance of the farm might have been. The parcel abutting the Joshua Brooks House (open to the public on special occasions) is privately owned and not open to the public.

Socioeconomic Environment

There is no visitation associated with the Barrett's Farm House or the parcel abutting the Joshua Brooks House, except for motorists driving by occasionally looking at the historic site. The parcel abutting the Joshua Brooks House and one parcel at Barrett's Farm (449 Barrett's Mill Road) are on municipal tax rolls. Furthermore, median-housing costs in Concord exceed \$796,000 (2005), and few socially or economically disadvantaged households are present in the area, none of which would be affected by the alternatives considered in this document.

Potential Impacts of the Alternatives

Summary of Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Action

Under Alternative 1, Minute Man NHP would maintain its existing boundary.

Alternative 2: Preserve Barrett's Farm and the Area around the Joshua Brooks House

Alternative 2 would establish a new legislative boundary to include Barrett's Farm House and nine parcels totaling approximately 60 acres surrounding the historic farm house. NPS would then legally be able to acquire the farm house parcel and perhaps other related parcels if a willing seller is identified. NPS would seek general agreements with owners of surrounding parcels to continue to preserve their properties as they have existed. The implementation of this alternative would depend on future funding and Servicewide priorities. There are no guarantees that funding and staffing needed to implement the alternative will be forthcoming.

Alternative 2 also would extend the legislative boundary to include one parcel with 3 acres abutting the Joshua Brooks House along the Battle Road at 37 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA. The owner of the open space on this parcel could willingly sell all or part of the property or agree to a conservation easement, with the private house on this parcel remaining in private hands. The NPS would seek to develop an agreement to be offered the right-of-first-refusal if the parcel were sold.

Potential Impacts on the Cultural Environment

Alternative 1

Barrett's Farm House would be subject to limited protections provided by the Town of Concord Barrett Farm Historic District, as would five abutting parcels. Three of the six properties surrounding the Barrett's Farm House parcel are owned by the Town of Concord Natural Resources Division and would be subject to its protections; but they could be allowed to revert to forest land or other agricultural uses. A fourth abutting parcel is owned by the Town of Concord Public Schools and could be developed for educational uses or sold to private parties for residential development subject to municipal zoning controls. The other two abutting parcels have houses, are privately-owned, and future development could be incompatible with the preservation and interpretation of Barrett's Farm House. Without preservation measures, the historic Barrett Farm House could be lost and inappropriate new development, subject to municipal zoning regulations, could occur upon that parcel.

The privately-owned parcel along the Battle Road abutting the Joshua Brooks House would be subject to Town of Lincoln zoning controls. The existing house could be replaced by a larger and/or less appropriate structure or use. A pedestrian/wildlife passage and improvements in Elm Brook's ecology would not be possible without additional protective action.

Archaeological resources that may exist at Barrett's Farm or near the Brooks House could be disturbed if new development took place.

Alternative 2

Minute Man NHP could establish the authority, through a boundary adjustment, to own, preserve, and manage Barrett's Farm House and obtain general agreements for protecting the agricultural cultural landscape of the parcels abutting Barrett's Farm House. The ownership of Barrett's Farm House by Minute Man NHP would have no negative impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions. It would have the benefit of preserving a significant historic site and maintaining the integrity of the Town of Concord's Barrett Farm Historic District.

Specified open space on the privately-owned parcel along the Battle Road near the Joshua Brooks House would be purchased from a willing seller or would be preserved under a conservation easement in order to insure the protection of Elm Brook and to insure that no incompatible development and scenic impact occurred along this stretch of the Battle Road cultural landscape.

Archaeological resources would be protected because extensive studies would be required prior to any new development or disturbance.

Potential Impacts on the Natural Environment

Alternative 1

The "locally important" and "prime" farmland at Barrett's Farm might not be protected from development. Wetlands on Town Natural Resources Division lands near Barrett's Farm and on the privately owned dogleg at 37 North Great Road abutting the Joshua Brooks House in Lincoln would be protected under federal, state, and local laws. The preservation of open space on parcels owned by the Town of Concord Natural Resources Division will maintain the habitat for the common wildlife species that may exist there.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would help preserve six parcels of open space, totaling approximately 56 acres abutting Barrett's Farm, would be preserved as open space. This is likely to happen with at least five of the parcels because they are owned by the Town of Concord Natural Resources Division, which is charged with maintaining their natural character; but the land could be allowed to revert to forest land or other agricultural uses. The sixth parcel, with 7.47 acres and owned by the Town of Concord Public Schools, could be built upon, so obtaining a general agreement could preserve this parcel.

This alternative would help preserve the dominant soil in the Barrett's Farm area, Windsor Loamy Sand, which is considered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to be "locally important farmland." It would also help preserve the small patch of the area's only "prime" farmland soil, Sudbury fine sandy loam.

The preservation of open space on parcels owned by the Town of Concord Natural Resources Division will maintain the habitat for the common wildlife species that may exist there.

This alternative would also preserve open space near the Joshua Brooks House and the surrounding land. Since Elm Brook flows through the dogleg at 37 North Great Road and under the Battle Road to the other side of the road, the dogleg is a wetland and cannot be built upon. The wetland would be protected under federal, state, and local laws.

Potential Impacts on Visitor Experience

Alternative 1

By maintaining the current park boundary, Minute Man NHP would continue to focus on interpreting the beginning actions of the Revolutionary War at the North Bridge and on the Battle Road as well as with activities related to the American Literary Renaissance at The Wayside. Visitors would not have access to Barrett's Farm House (a key element of the Battle of Concord story) or other related resources. Development on any of these parcels could negate the potential visitor experience.

Alternative 2

Minute Man NHP would interpret the beginning actions of the Revolutionary War by preserving and interpreting Barrett's Farm House, the chief storage place for patriot arms that British troops sought to seize in April, 1775. Minute Man NHP might be able to develop cooperative relationships with local historical organizations, which could help develop exhibits for the interior of the farm house. These operations may not be realized if funds from partners are not available. General agreements with abutting properties that were historically part of Barrett's Farm would insure that they would be preserved so that the public could understand how the farm historically appeared. If Minute Man NHP managed Barrett's Farm and interpreted it to the public, it could attract visitors, depending upon how the house would be treated and interpreted and the frequency of opening hours.

The boundary adjustment at the parcel behind the Joshua Brooks House would help preserve the historic appearance of the Battle Road. Protecting this property against development would enhance the visitor experience.

Potential Impacts on the Socioeconomic Environment

Alternative 1

NPS would acquire no additional property outside of the current boundary. Neither the Town of Concord nor the Town of Lincoln would experience a loss in tax revenues due to public ownership of property. No increase in visitation or visitor expenditures would occur.

Alternative 2

The Minute Man NHP boundary would be expanded to incorporate Barrett's Farm, adjoining farm landscape properties, and a parcel on the Battle Road in Lincoln. The potential acquisition of Barrett's Farm by the NPS, which would occur based on the availability of federal funds, would not result a decrease in real estate tax revenues to the Town of Concord because Barrett's Farm currently is owned by a nonprofit organization, Save Our Heritage, Inc., which is exempted from paying taxes on the property. The acquisition of either the 440 and/or 474 Barrett's Mill Road properties would affect the local tax rolls.

If Minute Man NHP operated Barrett's Farm House as an historic site open to the public, it would attract visitors. The majority of visitors would be people who were visiting Minute Man NHP already. There would be a negligible net overall increase in visitation and visitor expenditures at the park. Visitors from within the metropolitan area might make a special day trip to see the new historic site, but it probably would not attract many visitors from outside the area in addition to those already planning to visit Minute Man NHP.

The Minute Man NHP boundary would be expanded to incorporate the parcel behind the Joshua Brooks House on the Battle Road in Lincoln. An easement or an acquisition of the dogleg on 37 Great North Road would have no impact on real estate tax revenues to the Town of Lincoln. Acquisition would remove a small parcel of land from the tax rolls. The preservation of the scenic qualities of properties around the Joshua Brooks House on the Battle Road would not increase visitation or visitor expenditures.

Consultation and Coordination

In undertaking this boundary study, National Park Service staff has consulted with property owners who would be included in the new boundary. These property owners include Save Our Heritage, Inc.; Michael McGrath; Patrick J. McGrath; Town of Concord, MA; Concord Public Schools; Mark and Colleen Smith Giddings, and Ellen Kennelly. The Town of Lincoln, MA, where Ms. Kennelly's property is, has also been consulted. Minute Man NHP sent letters of consultation to Massachusetts Historical Commission (SHPO) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No tribal interests were identified.

Minute Man NHP held a public scoping meeting on September 21, 2006, to encourage public input into the boundary study. The scoping meeting was advertised in the *Concord Journal* and the *Lincoln Journal*. Town officials, affected property owners, and citizens interested in Minute Man NHP were individually invited to attend. Twelve persons, besides NPS staff, attended. They included a representative of Congressman Martin Meehan and a reporter for the *Concord Journal*, who wrote a story about the meeting and the boundary study.

Meeting participants made several suggestions. They suggested that the proposed boundary around Barrett's Farm be expanded to include town properties along the Assabet River and to the rear of the farm, as well as private houses on adjoining properties. They suggested that the NPS should work out agreements with these property owners to preserve their land to maintain a feeling of the Barrett Farm land that has long survived in this part of Concord. They also suggested that abutting private property owners be included in the boundary so that the NPS could acquire those properties if they were ever made available. Meeting participants also suggested minor changes to boundary maps.

Meeting participants asked how the NPS would obtain funding to purchase Barrett's Farm House or any other properties that might become available. Participants asked questions having to do with the process of preparing and adopting a boundary study. They suggested other people to meet with and send copies of the boundary study. Each attendee expressed support for the boundary expansion and for Minute Man NHP acquiring the Barrett Farm House.

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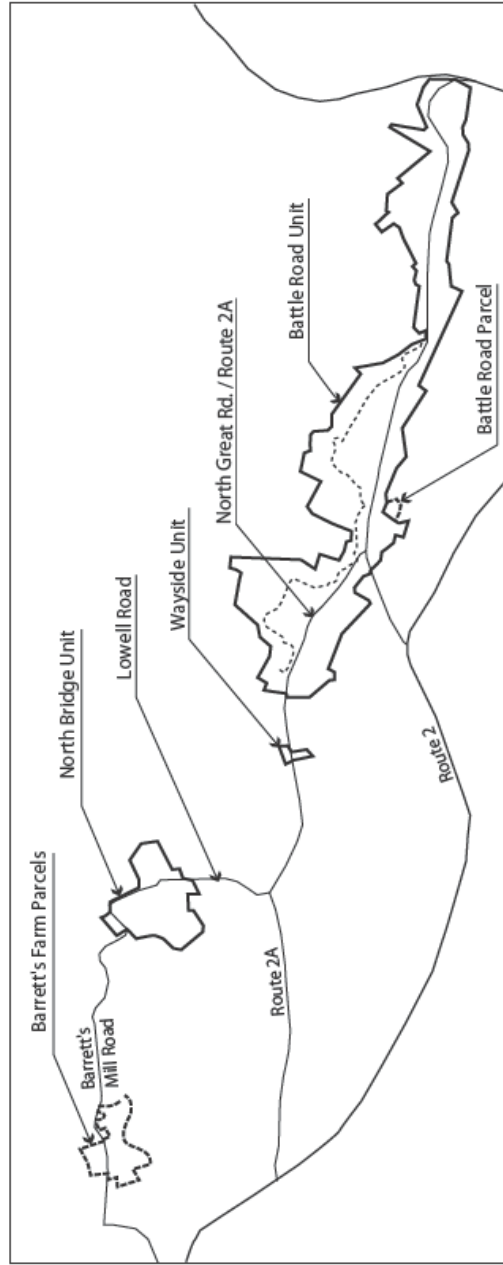
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Maps of Boundary Study Parcels

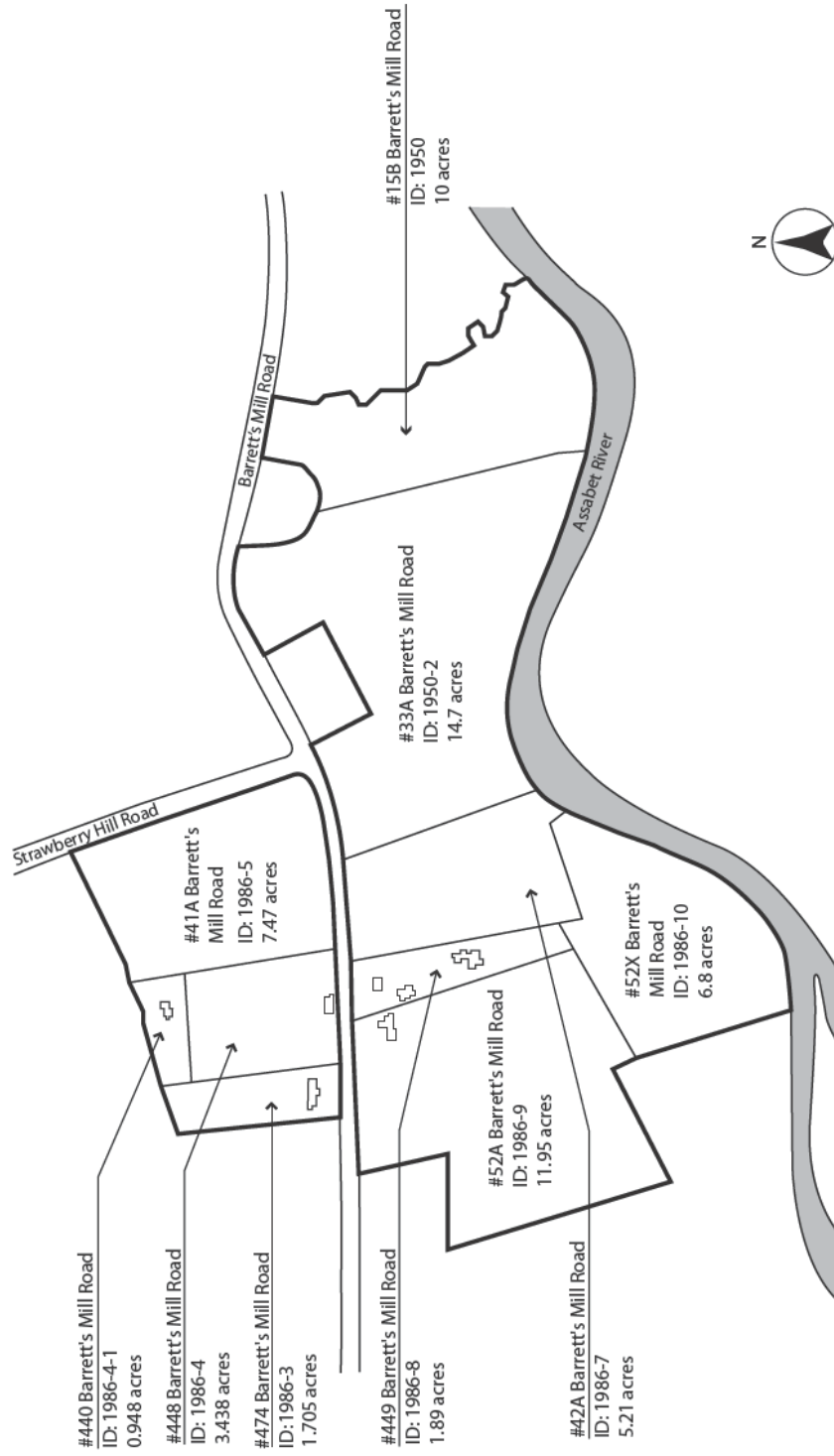


Proposed Boundary Inclusions
Parkwide Locations



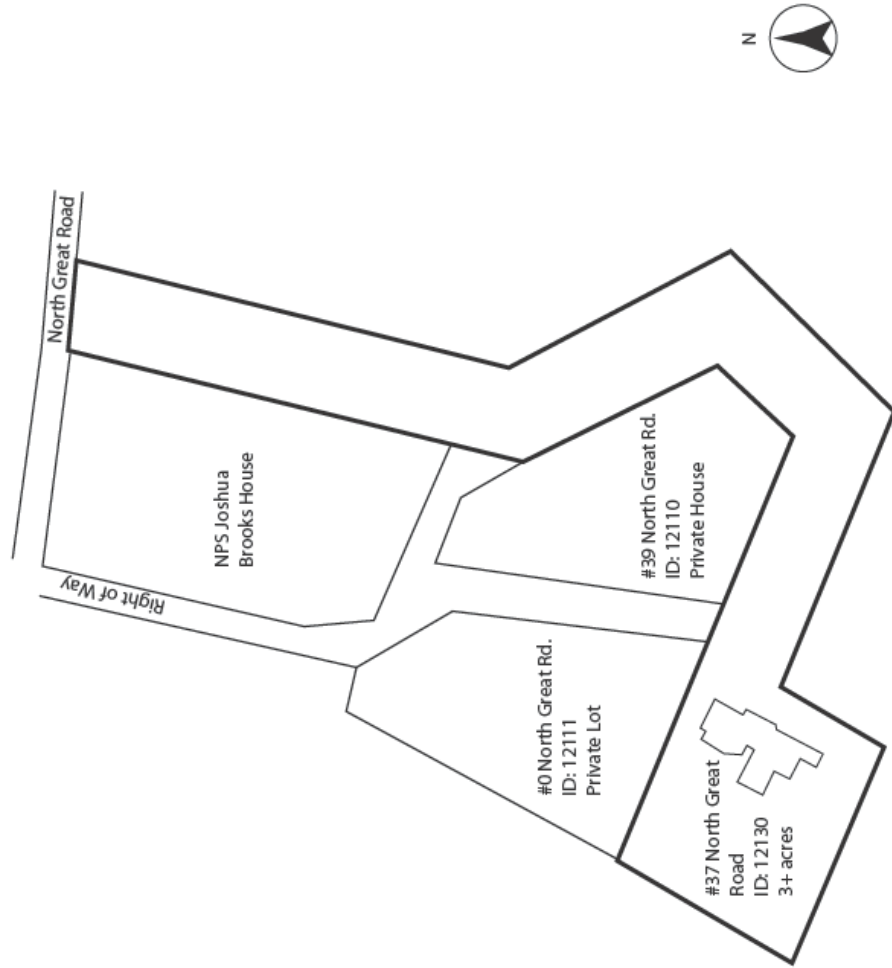


Barrett's Farm Parcels, Concord, MA
Proposed Boundary





Battle Road Parcel, Lincoln, MA
Proposed Boundary



Photos of Sites Described in the Minuteman National Historic Park Boundary Study



1. Barrett's Farm House, 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA



2. Sudbury Minutemen Re-enactors Marching past Barrett's Farm House, Concord, MA



3. View of Agricultural Land on Town Property, 52X and 33A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA



41. Behind Barrett's Farm House, 440 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA



5. Town of Concord-Owned Field, 52A Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, MA



6. Joshua Brooks House, with 37 North Great Road, Lincoln, MA, behind and to left