National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2015

Revised: 9/2025



Fiske Hill

Minute Man National Historical Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

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

Scope of the CLI

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

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

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

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

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

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

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

Use

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

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

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Fiske Hill

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 650044

Parent Landscape: 650037

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Minute Man National Historical Park

Alpha Code: MIMA

Park Organization Code: 1820

Park District: MIMA

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Fiske Hill component landscape is part of Minute Man National Historical Park (NHP), located in Middlesex County, sixteen miles northwest of Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1959, the park preserves the sites of the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775 and the “shot heard round the world” that began the Revolutionary War. Four discontiguous management units of Minute Man NHP (Battle Road, North Bridge, Wayside, and Barrett’s Farm) comprise an area of approximately 1,040 acres of land in the towns of Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington. The largest of the units, the 800-acre Battle Road Unit, preserves part of the route along which British Regulars retreated to Boston under colonial fire. The Battle Road is the primary organizing feature of the unit running in a linear route along present-day Lexington Road (Concord), North Great Road (Lincoln), and Massachusetts Avenue (Lexington), parts of which are also designated as State Route 2A. The Battle Road is set within a landscape of farmhouses, barns, stone walls, fields, woodlands, and hedgerows, all remnants of the area’s agricultural past. While there are some areas of post-historic development associated with private residences and park operations within the boundaries of the Battle Road Unit, it nonetheless retains much of its historic low-density, agricultural appearance. This contrasts with areas immediately surrounding the unit that have been heavily developed, such as Hanscom Air Force Base just to the north and its associated military housing areas.

Fiske Hill is the easternmost component landscape of the Battle Road cultural landscape. It comprises about 75 acres of field and forest on the western edge of Lexington, Massachusetts, and marks the site of fighting between the colonial militias and the haggard British troops as they tried to restore an orderly retreat from Concord to Boston. The relentless attacks from the colonists through the Fiske Hill area drove the British onward toward Lexington, where they eventually received reinforcements from Boston. Fiske Hill was also the site of a notable incident in which a British soldier and an American, James Hayward, met unexpectedly and exchanged fatal shots. The so-called “Hayward well incident” was told frequently among the stories and legends of the battle.

For much of its history, Fiske Hill was home to the Fiske family farm, from its original settlement in about 1647 until the 19th century. Family members David Fiske II, David Fiske III, Jonathan Fiske, Ebenezer Fiske, and Benjamin Fiske all maintained homesteads and subsistence farms in the immediate area at some point during the period. These farmers cleared the hillsides and wetlands for pastures, meadows, and gardens. At the time of the battle, Ebenezer Fiske and

his son and daughter-in-law Benjamin and Rebecca lived in a house at the eastern edge of the hill. By then the hillside and its surrounding land consisted primarily of large open pastures divided by stone walls and interspersed with patches of woodland. The road between Concord and Lexington wound over the north slope of the hill and passed directly north of Ebenezer Fiske's house.

Today, Fiske Hill comprises 75 acres of forest and meadow, located primarily between the streets of Massachusetts Avenue, and Old Massachusetts Avenue, Marrett Road, and Wood Street. Extant historic resources include the Ebenezer Fiske house foundation, the Bashian barn foundation, the Hayward well monument tablet, two wells, and stone walls. Also evident, though the presence of the stone walls lining its edge, is the historic right-of-way for the Battle Road. No intact structures remain in the Fiske Hill landscape, but the archeological sites of the Ebenezer Fiske house site and the David Fiske II house site provide valuable information about how the organization and makeup of the farm and its land evolved over time.

Fiske Hill is managed primarily for interpretive and recreational use by park visitors. Parking lots are located at the western edge of the property near the junction of Marrett Road and Old Massachusetts Avenue and on the eastern edge of the property near Wood Street. Visitors may tour the Fiske Hill area by foot along the Battle Road Trail or a loop trail that passes over the hill. The Ebenezer Fiske house site is marked with the visible remnants of the house foundation, as well as stone markers and waysides. The David Fiske II house site is not marked and is not easily accessible. The site is composed primarily of undeveloped forest, with approximately 8.5 acres managed as open meadow by periodic mowing.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Early Land Use and Colonial Settlement:
For at least one thousand years prior to European settlement, Algonquian people planted crops, fished, and hunted along the Musketequid River (Concord River) in what would become known as the Concord Plantation, a portion of which now comprises the Battle Road Unit of Minute Man National Historical Park. By the 1630s, diseases introduced by early European explorers had decimated the local Native American population.

Colonial settlement began in 1635 when Puritan families ventured inland to settle within the newly established Concord Plantation, and during the following year house lots were allocated along an east-west ridgeline as part of Concord's First Division. In 1640 the town of Cambridge extended west to the Concord Plantation's eastern border, and the newly settled land was known as Cambridge Farms. The farms would separate from Cambridge in 1713, becoming the town of Lexington. The town of Lincoln formed in 1754, its boundaries including portions of Concord and Lexington. (Cultural Landscape Report--hereafter CLR--2005: 9)

Settlement within the present-day Battle Road Unit occurred along the primary east-west road paralleling the ridgeline and connecting the Concord Plantation and Cambridge Farms (later the towns of Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington) to Boston. The road then was called by other names including the Bay Road and Country Road, and is now known as the Battle Road or the North Great Road. On both sides of the road were agricultural fields, which in the early to mid-17th century were commonly held in large, discontiguous tracts, often some distance from the farmhouses. Farm production was subsistence based, each family producing enough food for personal consumption and perhaps a small amount for local trade. As the century progressed, the common field system dissolved and agricultural fields were clustered closer to the farmsteads. By 1775 tilled fields, pastures, and meadows divided by fences and stone walls occupied most of the acreage along the Battle Road. Intermixed were small woodlots, orchards, farm buildings, taverns, and a number of small home-based businesses. Additional roads were constructed throughout the 18th century. (CLR 2005: 9)

Settlement and Initial Development of Fiske Hill:
Fiske Hill was settled around 1647 by David Fiske II and his wife Lydia Cooper. The couple established a homestead on the eastern slope of Fiske Hill on the western border of Cambridge, known as Cambridge Farms, on sixteen acres given to them by Lydia's step-father, Deacon Gregory Stone. The couple had two children, David III and Lydia, before Lydia, the mother, died in 1654. David remarried to Seaborn Wilson the next year and had three more daughters.

David II's son, David Fiske III, married Sarah Day in 1674 and moved to his own homestead about 400 feet north of his father's house, on the south side of the road between Lexington and Concord. There, the couple raised seven children, David, Jonathan, Robert, Anna, Lydia, Sarah, and Ebenezer. The two David Fiskes farmed the land in tandem for the remainder of the century and until David II's death in 1710. His house, more than sixty years old by this

time, was likely in poor condition, and by 1721when Seaborn died, it had been abandoned. Meanwhile, David III's sons were coming of age and acquiring land around Fiske Hill. Jonathan established a homestead east of his father's house on the Concord Road, but then sold that property to his father, who in turn gave the homestead to his son Ebenezer, who lived there with his family until his father's death in 1729, at which point he sold his homestead and moved into his father's house.

Battle of Lexington and Concord:
On April 19, 1775, colonists fought British Regulars, engaging in what would become the first battle of the American Revolution. The route of the British troops along the Concord Road took them by the Fiske House in the morning on the way to Concord and again on their retreat back to Boston. By the time they reached Fiske Hill again that afternoon, the British were exhausted, hungry and thirsty, and running out of ammunition. Morale was low and the officers were having a hard time keeping the retreat orderly. As they approached the stony bluff on the west side of Fiske Hill, the British were met with fire from colonists on the bluff. British flankers cleared the bluff, and the troops moved around the bend in the road and began to climb Fiske Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, in command of the British troops, halted the men there and attempted to restore order, but renewed fire from the surrounding woodlots defeated the effort. Over the next several minutes of fighting over Fiske Hill, Colonel Smith was wounded and Major Pitcairn was unhorsed.

At the time of the battle, the house on Fiske Hill was occupied by Ebenezer Fiske, now 83 years old and confined to his bed by age and illness, where he lived with his son Benjamin and daughter-in-law Rebecca. As the fighting commenced in Concord and the British column advanced on their home, Benjamin and Rebecca placed Ebenezer on his mattress in a cart and evacuated to a neighbor's house. Upon returning to the home, Rebecca found a dead British soldier on her doorstep and three wounded soldiers inside. According to accounts, a young soldier from Acton, James Hayward, stopped at the Fiske well for a drink when he saw a British soldier coming from the house. Both fired and struck the other; the British soldier was killed instantly and Hayward was mortally wounded.

Fiske Hill Development, 1784-1843:
Benjamin Fiske died intestate in 1785, and his children were still too young to inherit his estate. As was customary, his widow, Rebecca, received one-third of the estate and his son, Benjamin II, would receive two-thirds when he came of age in 1799. Rebecca married William Merriam in 1786, and likely moved to her new husband's home at that time. For the next few years she recorded rent received for the Fiske Hill house. During this time, she also sold portions of the farm, including the large hill pasture. When Benjamin II came of age in 1799, he sold his two-thirds interest in the house and remaining land to Joshua Simonds, who ran a tavern in the house for about a decade. In 1709, Joshua sold the house to his brother-in-law Robert Parker, youngest son of Captain John Parker, who kept it until his death in 1840. It does not appear that Rebecca relinquished her one-third interest during her lifetime, which lasted until 1845, although how she managed that interest is unknown. Her second husband died around 1810, and Rebecca did not remarry. She was assessed for her one-third of the Fiske homestead and paid taxes on it until 1840.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Fiske house went through a series of ownership changes. Daniel Chamberlain sold the house to John Meriam in 1857, who sold to Robert Simpson in 1862, who in turn sold to Samuel Dudley in 1863. Dudley owned the house for about twenty years, during which time he made substantial alterations to it, although the nature of these alterations is not known. In 1885 Samuel Dudley sold the house to William J. Neville, who owned it through the end of the century.

During the first half of the 20th century, the Fiske house site and the land around it was owned by the Bashian family. Brothers, and Armenian immigrants, Toros and Bedros Bashian purchased the house in 1902 after being in the country for about ten years. Toros was single, but Bedros was married with two young sons. Apparently touched by the history of his house, Bedros named his third son, born in 1905, Martin Fiske Bashian. In 1936, Bedros died and by 1940, only Toros and his nephew Martin were still living in the house. After the 1940s, the condition of the house and farm declined, and in 1955 Martin had the house demolished and sold the property to Frida Selmer Seabury.

The Bashians only owned a portion of the former Fiske farm. Land on the western side of the hill was owned by the Hinds family, who operated a turkey farm called Pine Hill Farm during the first half of the 20th century. The farm raised thousands of turkeys on large areas of open pasture.

Early Preservation Efforts and Minute Man National Historical Park:
Minute Man National Historical Park was authorized in 1959, and land on Fiske Hill was among the first acquired by the park. By then, the Bashian house was gone, and the standing structures in the area included the Hinds farm

structures and a handful of residential houses. As these were acquired, the structures and other signs of habitation were removed and much of the land was allowed to naturalize. Early park planning looked to develop visitor services in Fiske Hill, taking advantage of its location at the eastern end of the park and its proximity to Routes 128 and 2A. Plans included selective restoration of the historic resources in the area, including clearing forest or maintaining open areas to emphasize its historic agricultural character, restoration of about one and a half miles of stone walls, and restoration of the extant traces of the Battle Road route.

The park's desire to move traffic away from the Battle Road and restore portions of it to an appearance closer to that of the 18th century included reconfiguring the roads in Fiske Hill. When Route 128 was constructed in the 1950s, an interchange was built at Marrett Road, redirecting most of the traffic off of Massachusetts Avenue and away from the hill. Traffic was still heavy on Massachusetts Avenue, as this was still the primary route between Concord and the center of Lexington. In the late 1960s, the park worked to redirect traffic off of Massachusetts Avenue, with the intent of obliterating it and bringing pedestrians along the Battle Road route. This effort resulted in the construction of a new Massachusetts Avenue segment on the south side of Fiske Hill, a reconfigured overpass over Route 128, and substantially reduced traffic along the Battle Road route. However, the old road, now named Old Massachusetts Avenue, was never removed.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Minute Man National Historical Park (NHP) is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places criteria A, B, and D in the areas of Military History, Commemoration, and Literature. Its primary significance as the site of the 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord, which marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War and ranks among the most significant events in American history. Among the extant properties relating to the battle are the Lexington and Concord Battlefield, thirteen buildings present at the time of the battle, and a number of historical archaeological sites that constitute the remains of homes of people or events associated with the fight. The importance of the battle to the creation of the United States was recognized during the early years of the republic, and the area subsequently became one of the first hallowed places in the new nation. The placement of monuments and plaques to formally commemorate the event began with the construction of the Battle Monument in 1836, and over the course of the ensuing century a number of other objects designed to mark the site of important aspects of the battle were erected. The significance of the place in the area of commemoration culminated with the creation of Minute Man NHP in 1959. Two properties in the park, the Wayside and Old Manse, also possess national significance for their association with prominent literary figures of the 19th and 20th centuries. Both properties have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. The Literary significance of the district extends from 1834 when Ralph Waldo Emerson began his short residence at the Old Manse, to 1924 when Harriet Lothrop left the Wayside. (National Register 2002 Section 8:1)

The park also possesses local significance under National Register criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, and Archaeology. The history of the district is inextricably tied to agriculture, which was the primary economic activity carried on there through the 17th through 19th centuries. The period of significance for Agriculture begins in c.1635 when plantation period settlement and agricultural land use in Concord began to 1951 to encompass farm properties in Concord that were involved in market gardening and dairying during the early and mid-20th century. Architecturally, the district embodies a collection of dwellings that are representative of local building trends from the early 18th century through the mid-20th century. The period of significance for Architecture extends from c.1705 when the Meriam House was constructed to 1946 when the Beatteay House was completed. (Note: The c.1705 date is from the 2002 National Register documentation. Future revisions and updates to the documentation should revisit this date because the William Smith House dates to c.1693). Numerous historical archaeological sites have been investigated at the park and have yielded or are likely to yield significant information pertaining to early settlement in the area and further information relating to the appearance of the area at the time of the battle on April 19, 1775. The period of significance for Archaeology extends from c.1665 when the John Meriam House was constructed to 1951. (National Register 2002, Section 8:1-2)

There are two overall periods of significance that encompass the park's resources: 7,500 to 500 years ago, and c.1635 to 1959. The first period acknowledges archeological resources, which are beyond the scope of this CLI and are therefore not addressed beyond information provided in National Register documentation. The second period begins with the settlement and agricultural development of the area and ends when the park was established.

Fiske Hill is within the Battle Road Unit, the largest of the park's four discontinuous units, and contains part of the historical Battle Road along which colonial militia pursued and attacked the retreating British during the Battle of

Lexington and Concord. Numerous historic buildings, structures, stone walls, monuments, and over 800 acres of former farm land contribute to the military, commemorative, agricultural, architectural, and archeological significance of the Battle Road Unit under National Register criteria A, C, and D.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Through the landscape's long period of significance, covering 324 years from 1635 to 1959, the Battle Road Unit has changed considerably, from the first colonial farms and woodlands to a suburban thoroughfare with residential houses. The changes, however, have generally been gradual, with extended periods of continuity and stasis. Long periods of ownership of houses and farmland over multiple generations, stable agricultural land use, and limited resources available for drastic changes have ensured that the landscape evolved slowly to meet modern needs while retaining its rural, agricultural character.

Today, no intact historic buildings remain within the Fiske Hill area. Buildings that were present in 1775 were gone by the time the park acquired the property, and any building that was associated with later agricultural periods that did remain in 1959 was removed by the park in an effort to restore the historic scene. Extant building foundations that mark the Ebenezer Fiske house site and a 19th-century barn referred to as the Bashian barn, however, help convey the organization and historic associations of the Fiske homestead. Other historic features include stone walls that still mark the boundaries of historic fields and properties and the edges of the Battle Road right-of-way, several 19th-century stone wells, and a memorial tablet marking the location of the "Hayward well incident" installed in 1885.

The condition of the Fiske Hill landscape is "fair," primarily due to the growth of vegetation. The property shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Minute Man National Historical Park contains three cultural landscapes: Battle Road, Wayside, and North Bridge. Fiske Hill is one of six component landscapes that compose the Battle Road landscape, the balance of which are Meriam's Corner, Jones/Stow Farm, Brooks Farm, Hartwell Area, and Nelson Farm Area.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Historic Vernacular Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Fiske Hill	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Battle Road	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Battle Road Unit	**Other Name Type:**	Current

Site Plan



Site Plan showing the existing conditions of Fiske Hill.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/24/2015

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A draft Level II CLI was completed in 1995 for the Battle Road unit of MIMA and for the Fiske Hill component landscape. Battle Road was further documented and entered into the CLI database during FY2000.

This CLI is based in part on the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Battle Road Unit: Minute Man National Historical Park, completed in 2005 by Deborah Dietrich-Smith. The CLR was produced through extensive research of primary and secondary source materials, including town meeting reports, historic structures reports, and various photographic collections. Information specific to Fiske Hill was extracted primarily from archeological reports by David Snow and Cordelia Snow in the 1960s and an archeological collections report by the Archeological Collections Management Program of the NPS in 1987, all on file in the park archives, and on various published editions of the vital records of Lexington and Cambridge.

Site visits were conducted in October 2014 by Historical Landscape Architect John Hammond, who updated the analysis and evaluation and the existing condition maps at that time. The park contact for the CLI is Nancy Nelson, who may be reached by telephone at (978) 318-7811 or by email at nancy_nelson@nps.gov.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Fiske Hill
Minute Man National Historical Park

Minute Man National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fiske Hill including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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

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

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

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Fiske Hill is hereby approved and accepted.

Nancy A. Nelson 9.24.2015

Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, September 24, 2015.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIMONE MONTELEONE Digitally signed by SIMONE MONTELEONE
Date: 2025.09.16 13:43:07 -04'00'

Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, September 16, 2025.

Revision:

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

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Massachusetts	Middlesex County

Size (Acres): 75

Land Tract Number(s)

The Fiske Hill component landscape comprises 41 land tracts. Four tracts are public land (state and town roads) and one tract is privately owned: 01-101, 01-102, 01-113 (Town of Lexington, 2.8 ac.), 01-115 (public, State of MA), 01-120, 01-121, 01-122, 01-123, 01-124, 01-125, 01-126, 01-127, 01-128, 01-129, 01-130, 01-132, 01-135, 01-137, 01-138, 01-139, 01-140, 01-141, 01-142, 01-145, 01-146, 01-147, 01-148, 01-153, 01-154, 01-156, 01-157, 01-158, 01-161, 01-163, 01-168, 01-169 (State of MA, 1.7 ac.), 01-170 (Town of Lincoln, 0.38 ac.), 01-173, 01-174, 01-178 (private, 7.48 ac.), 01-179

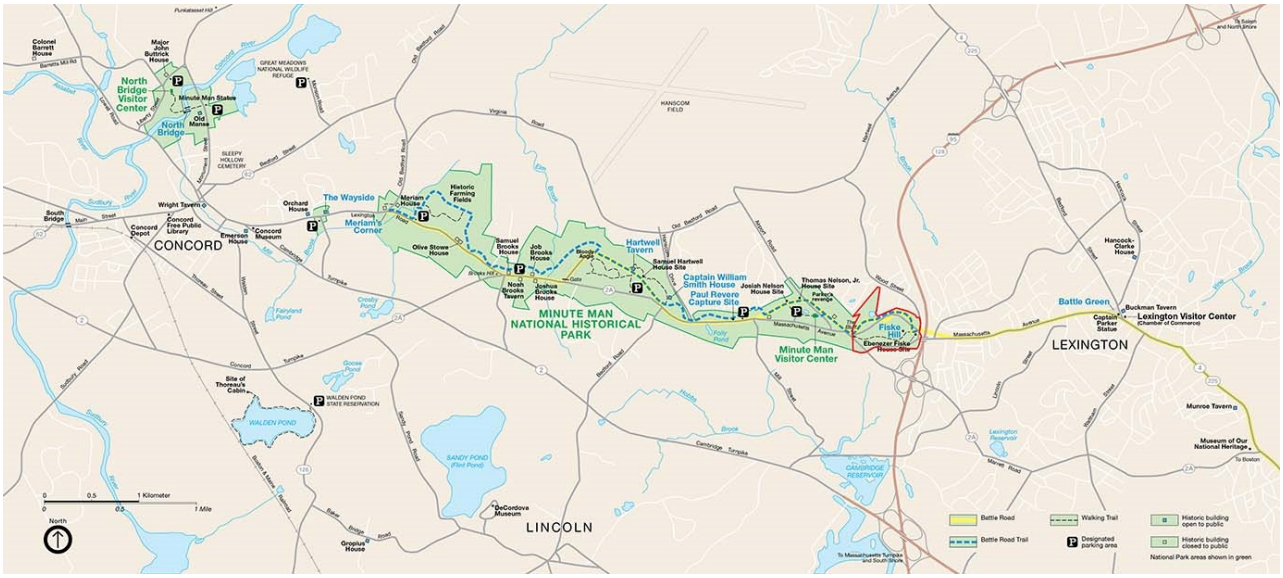
Boundary Description:

Fiske Hill is the easternmost component landscape of the Battle Road cultural landscape. Its boundary follows the park boundary on the north, east, and south sides, and follows parcel boundaries on the west side. The western boundary of the Fiske Hill component landscape coincides with the eastern boundary of the Nelson Farm Area component landscape. The total area enclosed by the boundary is 75 acres.

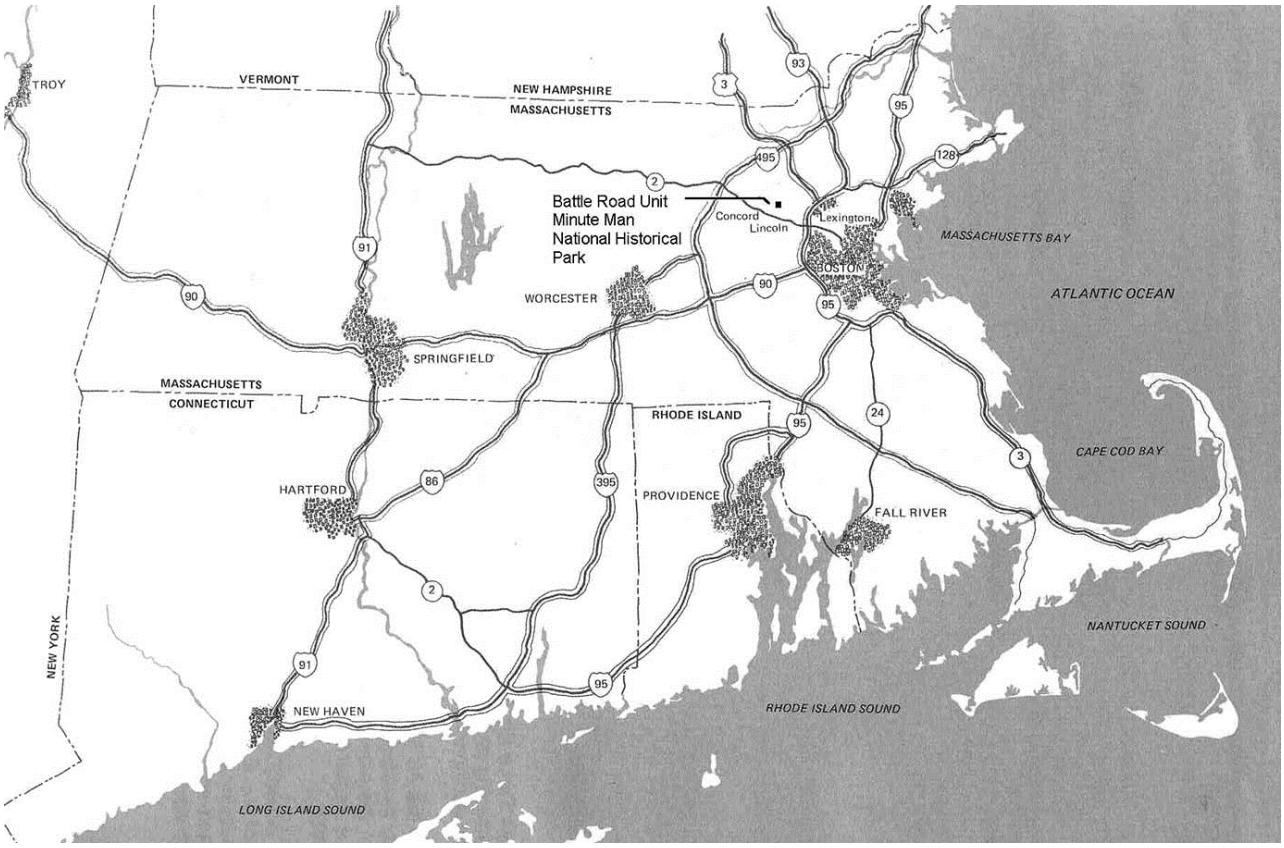
Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Area	42.45223005	-71.26181433	
	Area	42.44871589	-71.26443006	
	Area	42.44914846	-71.26355336	
	Area	42.44774619	-71.26474543	
	Area	42.44577569	-71.26476174	
	Area	42.44565894	-71.26391749	
	Area	42.44583104	-71.26297061	
	Area	42.44614061	-71.26245507	
	Area	42.44628515	-71.26139238	
	Area	42.4460211	-71.2610995	
	Area	42.44554684	-71.25682659	
	Area	42.44746442	-71.25617933	
	Area	42.44757445	-71.25641447	
	Area	42.4481247	-71.25615112	
	Area	42.44903298	-71.2561823	
	Area	42.44894738	-71.25672273	
	Area	42.44920365	-71.25681166	
	Area	42.44949934	-71.25733774	
	Area	42.44995161	-71.2592749	
	Area	42.44911434	-71.26173707	
	Area	42.44952606	-71.26206417	
	Area	42.44960349	-71.26196056	
	Area	42.45214681	-71.26144698	

Location Map:



Location Map Information. Map of the park and surrounding context showing Fiske Hill outlined in red. (Harper's Ferrry Center, adapted by OCLP)



Location Map Information. Map of Minute Man National Historical Park location. (OCLP File)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Fiske Hill is set within a landscape of rolling hills, ridges, plains, wetlands, and kettle ponds (see Regional Landscape Context graphic). The hills have largely eroded into gentle slopes and rounded summits, although abundant bedrock outcrops create steep bluffs in places. The hills are separated by distances of flat alluvial plains, through which brooks and small rivers meander, braid, and spread out to form extensive wetlands and marshes. The overall level elevation and the irregular topography results in divergent drainage basins that drain northwest to the Concord River, north to the Shawsheen River, and south to the Charles River. The soil is primarily composed of coarse glacial till, with a layer of organic loam within the forested areas and rich sediments in the wetlands and flood plains.

Less than half a mile wide, Fiske Hill itself rises 100 feet above the surrounding landscape to an elevation of 300 feet above sea level. The steepest slopes of the hill are on the east side, are around 23 degrees, but much of the hillside is characterized by a more gradual slope. Areas to the west of the hill are relatively flat, and brooks and small areas of wetlands can be found on the west and north side of the hill.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Located at the edge of Lexington, Fiske Hill was a mile and a half from the town center and two to five miles from the nearest towns of Lincoln, Bedford, and Concord. For much of the historic period, the character of Fiske Hill and its surrounding area was rural, with patches of farmland, uncultivated meadows and pastures, wooded areas, and wetlands. Homesteads consisted of informal clusters of houses with their associated barns and outbuildings, arranged along the roads. This configuration and rural character of Fiske Hill persisted as areas around it developed into a suburban thoroughfare. Highways such as Route 2A and Route 128 brought increasing numbers of motorists to the area and spurred subdivision of former farms into small, residential lots. This developmental pressure was increased in the 1940s when Hanscom Air Force Base and Airfield was constructed. Despite the increased development along the Route 2A corridor, however, large portions of Fiske Hill remained undeveloped as pasture or woodland. Today, the area around Fiske Hill and Minute Man NHP in general may be characterized as a lightly settled suburban and small-town extension of the Boston metropolitan area with significant portions still under cultivation as agricultural land.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Fiske Hill is located within Minute Man National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service. Fiske Hill is also located at the western edge of Lexington, Massachusetts in Middlesex County, close to the town boundaries of Lincoln, Concord, and Bedford. Hanscom Air Force Base, located on the north edge of the Battle Road Unit, is a non-flying base of the United States Air Force that employs nearly 6,000 active duty, civilian, and contractor employees. The associated L.G. Hanscom Field civilian airfield is operated by Massport and services between 400 and 450 operations per day on average.

Portions of four state roads are located within the component landscape boundary: Marrett Road (Route 2A), Massachusetts Avenue, Old Massachusetts Avenue, and Wood Street. State Route 128/Interstate 95 passes immediately to the east of the Fiske Hill landscape boundary.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/24/2015

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Fiske Hill falls under the same management category as the Battle Road Unit, which meets several criteria for the “Must Be Preserved and Maintained” management category. The preservation of the site is specifically legislated and the site is related to the park’s legislated significance.

The 1959 enabling legislation for Minute Man NHP stated that the park was established to “preserve, selectively restore, and interpret portions of the Lexington-Concord Battle Road, as well as its associated structures, properties and sites so that the visitor may better appreciate and understand the beginning of the American Revolution…” Congress expanded that initial mission in 1992 to include more than interpretation of specific events associated with April 19, 1775: “the purposes of the Park shall include the preservation and interpretation of (1) the historic landscape along the road between Lexington and Concord, [and] (2) sites associated with the causes and consequences of the American Revolution” (“Environmental Assessment for ‘Save Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes’” 1999: 2) .

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: None - Privately Owned

Narrative: The majority of the land within the Fiske Hill component landscape is owned in fee simple by the National Park Service. One parcel of 7.5 acres associated with the electrical transmission lines on the western edge of the component landscape is privately owned.

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Fiske Hill is within the boundaries of Minute Man National Historical Park (NHP), which was established in 1959. On December 29, 1962, two properties within the park boundaries were designated as National Historic Landmarks: the Wayside and Old Manse. On October 15, 1966, the entire park was administratively listed without documentation in the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In 1996-1997, consultations between the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (SHPO) identified numerous contributing and non-contributing resources in the park. Within Fiske Hill, contributing resources included the David Fiske property stone walls and well, the Ebenezer Fiske house foundation, Ebenezer Fiske Property stone walls, Fiske Hill wells, and the Hayward Well monument. The SHPO determined that additional research was needed on the Fiske Hill stone walls before they could determine a status. Additionally, the SHPO recommended the need to develop documentation of the park's resources in the National Register and that a period of significance should extend "well into the 20th century to reflect the continued significance of this site as an important reflection of our nation's founding and how we commemorate, venerate, and interpret it."

On November 29, 2002, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places accepted documentation of the park as a historic district, which addressed many recommendations from the SHPO. Significance was identified under criteria A, B, C, and D and Criteria Considerations B (Moved Properties), F (Commemorative Properties), and G (Significance Within the Last Fifty Years). The park is nationally significant in the areas of military, literature, and other (commemoration), and locally significant in the areas of agriculture, archeology, and architecture. The period of significance was listed on the cover sheet as 1655 to 1959, dates that correspond to the expansion of the town of Concord and settlement of Fiske Hill, and the establishment of the Minute Man NHP, respectively. Contributing features described in the documentation for Fiske Hill included the Bashian Barn Foundation (131), Hayward Well Monument (132), Fiske Hill Well (133), and the Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation (134). Portions of other contributing features that spanned all four park units —the Battle Road and system of stone walls—were also identified in Fiske Hill. Three contributing archeological sites were also described: Battle Road/Fiske Hill Site (130), Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation (134), and Lt. David Fiske Site (135) (now named David Fiske II House Site). Of the non-contributing resources identified in the in the National Register documentation, only portions of the Battle Road Trail lie within the Fiske Hill area.

On December 2, 2002, the Keeper accepted a Supplementary Listing Record for the National Register documentation that amended the archeological area of significance to "Archeology: Prehistoric" and "Archeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal," and added "7,500 to 500 years ago" to the period of significance. On October 25, 2006, the Keeper accepted a resource count change and technical corrections primarily related to building names, addresses, and dates of construction as well as subsequent research.

Through a series of emails in January 2009 between the park and the NPS Northeast Region History Program, the beginning date of the period of significance for the district was clarified as being c.1635 due to inconsistencies in the 2002 National Register documentation. On the cover sheet of the documentation, the beginning date was listed as 1655. However, internally in the documentation, c.1635 was identified as the beginning of the agriculture area of significance. Additionally, c.1635 is the date when English settlement began in the area and the town of Concord was established, and the date of several archeological sites in the park: Thomas Flint Site (14), Battle Road/North Bridge (21), and Battle Road/Fiske Hill (130). A Supplementary Listing Record will be submitted to the Keeper in the future to correct the cover sheet.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance for Fiske Hill are adequately documented in existing National Register documentation. The existing documentation also adequately describes the site's historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Fiske Hill is considered "Entered-Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 10/25/2006

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Minute Man National Historical Park (NHP) possesses significance under National Register criteria A, B, C, and D. The park has national significance in the areas of Military History, Commemoration, and Literature. Its primary significance is as the site of the 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord, which marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War and ranks among the most significant events in American history. Among the extant properties relating to the battle are the Lexington and Concord Battlefield, thirteen buildings present at the time of the battle, and a number of historical archaeological sites that constitute the remains of homes of people or events associated with the fight. The importance of the battle to the creation of the United States was recognized during the early years of the republic, and the area subsequently became one of the first hallowed places in the new nation. The placement of monuments and plaques to formally commemorate the event began with the construction of the Battle Monument in 1836, and over the course of the ensuing century a number of other objects designed to mark the site of important aspects of the battle were erected. The significance of the place in the area of commemoration culminated with the creation of Minute Man NHP in 1959. Two properties in the park, the Wayside and Old Manse, also possess national significance for their association with prominent literary figures of the 19th and 20th centuries. Both properties have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. The Literary significance of the district extends from 1834 when Ralph Waldo Emerson began his short residence at the Old Manse, to 1924 when Harriet Lothrop left the Wayside. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 1)

The park also possesses local significance under National Register criteria A, C, and D in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, and Archaeology. The history of the district is inextricably tied to agriculture, which was the primary economic activity carried on there through the 17th through 19th centuries. The period of significance for Agriculture begins in c.1635 when plantation period settlement and agricultural land use in Concord began to 1951 to encompass farm properties in Concord that were involved in market gardening and dairying during the early and mid-20th century. Architecturally, the district embodies a collection of dwellings that are representative of local building trends from the early 18th century through the mid-20th century. The period of significance for Architecture extends from c.1705 when the Meriam House was constructed to 1946 when the Beatteay House was completed. (Note: The c.1705 date is from the 2002 National Register documentation. Future revisions and updates to the documentation should revisit this date because the William Smith House dates to c.1693). Numerous historical archaeological sites have been investigated at the park and have yielded or are likely to yield significant information pertaining to early settlement in the area and further information relating to the appearance of the area at the time of the battle on April 19, 1775. The period of significance for Archaeology extends from c.1665 when the John Meriam House was constructed to 1951. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 1-2)

There are two overall periods of significance that encompass the park's resources: 7,500 to 500 years ago, and c.1635 to 1959. The first period acknowledges archeological resources, which are beyond the scope of this CLI and are therefore not addressed beyond information provided in National Register documentation. The second period begins with the settlement and agricultural development of the area

and ends when the park was established.

THE BATTLE ROAD UNIT / FISKE HILL

Fiske Hill is within the Battle Road Unit, the largest of the park's four discontinuous units, which contains part of the historical Battle Road along which Colonial militia pursued and attacked the retreating British during the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Numerous historic buildings, structures, stone walls, monuments, and over 800 acres of former farm land contribute to the military, commemorative, agricultural, architectural, and archeological significance of the Battle Road Unit under the National Register criteria A, C, and D.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION A

Military History:
Fiske Hill is nationally significant for its role in the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War and ranks as one of the most important events in the history of the United States. Significant resources include the Battle Road used by the British for both their advance on and retreat from Concord, and numerous stone walls that were often used for cover by the militiamen during the fight. The British retreat along the four-mile stretch of road within the Battle Road Unit was characterized by a series of running engagements during which the British were placed under almost constant fire by the American militia forces. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 3)

Fiske Hill featured prominently in the events of the running battle of April 19, 1775. The route of the British troops along the Concord Road took them by the Fiske House in the morning on the way to Concord and again on their disastrous retreat back to Boston. As the troops began to climb Fiske Hill on their return trip, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, in command of the British troops, halted the men there and attempted to restore order. By then, many of the men had been wounded and all were exhausted and demoralized. Colonel Smith had received a wound through his leg and a number of officers were also wounded, and Major John Pitcairn, second in command, had been unhorsed. Attempts to restore an orderly retreat failed, and the troops began to flee in confusion. Fiske Hill was also the site where a young soldier from Acton, James Hayward, stopped at the Fiske well for a drink when he saw a British soldier coming from the house. Both fired and struck the other; the British soldier was killed instantly and Hayward was mortally wounded.

Surviving resources within the Fiske Hill area and associated with the battle are the Battle Road, numerous stone walls used for cover by the militiamen during the fight, remains of the c.1700 Fiske Hill well, and the foundation of the c.1729 Ebenezer Fiske House. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 17)

Commemoration:
Fiske Hill is nationally significant for its role in commemorative activities recognizing the importance of the 1775 battle, which culminated with the establishment of Minute Man NHP by an act of Congress in 1959. Celebrations commemorating the events and participants of the battle of Concord and Lexington began soon after the end of the Revolutionary War. Annual events included speeches, civic parades, and lectures about the battle at the North Bridge. Re-enactments of the battle were performed throughout the 19th century and prefigured the popularity of Civil War re-enactments of the 20th century. Monuments were erected and dedicated throughout the park, beginning with the Battle Monument at the North Bridge in 1836. One of these monuments, the Hayward Well Memorial, dedicated in 1885 and installed in the stone wall near the site of the Fiske house, is extant today. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 17-20)

During the early part of the 20th century, visitation to this and other areas began to increase, leading to the erection of roadside stops along the Battle Road, both in and outside of the future park, and the improvement of roads throughout the area. With the creation of the park, the National Park Service began a multi-decade program of "restoring" the character of the park to its 1775 appearance. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 17, 22-23)

Agriculture:
Fiske Hill is locally significant for its role in agricultural land uses that characterized Lexington, and the surrounding areas. By the mid-18th century, these towns were dominated by farmsteads defined by

fieldstone walls that marked property boundaries as well as internal divisions based on land use. The systems of fields, ditches, and stone walls remain as significant examples of this former agricultural landscape. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 37,41)

In the 18th and 19th centuries, this area supplied agricultural products to both the Boston urban core and local population. Some farms declined due to overgrazing and depletion of soils, while others prospered. Farmers also transitioned from a subsistence system to commercial market opportunities. In the first quarter of the 20th century there was a decrease in agriculture on local farms, but market gardening was still carried out. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 43-44,46)

Following World War I, major marketed crops from the region came under increasing competitive pressure. Refrigerated shipments of produce from other parts of the country began to cut into the local production and distribution of these goods. Dairy shifted to larger, mechanized operations of cheaper land, and the hay market declined with the advent of the automobile. The automobile was also responsible for increased suburban and commercial development of the region, resulting in higher real estate prices. Increased land prices and expanding suburbanization as well as competition from more distant producers led to a decline in the amount of acreage in active agricultural use. For the most part, local farmers could not afford to maintain their farms, and the local agricultural economy shrank, while the landscape became dominated by forests, residences, and roads. The towns of Concord, Lincoln and Lexington became an outer suburb for the Boston metropolitan area and there was an increase in residential development. However, farm stands were in seasonal operation along major roads and highways in the three towns such as Massachusetts Avenue and Route 2. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 46-47)

Features associated with agriculture at Fiske Hill include the Lt. David Fiske Site, Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation, and Bashian Barn foundation. A house lot, barn, stockyard and various outbuildings surrounded by pasture formed the nearby Fiske farm complex, This farmstead expanded through the early to mid-18th century as members of the Fiske family acquired land for raising livestock and crops.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION C

Architecture:
The Battle Road Unit is locally significant for dwellings representative of local building trends from the early 18th century through the mid-20th century. The park unit includes a number of extant buildings representing a variety of styles and uses, including 18th century farm houses, barns, farm buildings, farm stands, and a former school house. Historically, buildings within Fiske Hill were typical of 18th and 19th century farm houses, barns, and outbuildings.

There are no extant buildings remain within the Fiske Hill component landscape today, but two building foundations remain. The Ebenezer Fiske House foundation dates to 1667 and was occupied by Ebenezer Fiske from 1729 until his death in 1775. The stone foundation remains set in grassy lawn near intersection of Old Massachusetts Ave. and Wood Street. To the west is the Bashian Barn foundation constructed by c.1875 and removed in the 1960s. It consists of large fieldstones with some portions beginning to collapse.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION D

Archeology:
Fiske Hill contains a number of important archeological resources relating to the battle and to domestic and agricultural land uses. The David Fiske II house site, also called the Lt. David Fiske site, marks the location of the first Fiske Hill homestead, present from about 1647 until about 1710. The site, excavated in the 1960s, contains the stone foundation and cellar hole of the house and may contain other resources related to the homestead that have not yet been excavated. Several archeological studies were conducted during the 1960s to document the Ebenezer Fiske house site and to determine whether it is properly located at the site of the 19th century Bashian House. Today, the entire house site, including the foundation of the Bashian Barn, is considered to have the potential to disclose significant information about the Fiskes and other residents. In addition, some effort was devoted to locating the remains of the Battle Road on Fiske Hill. (National Register 2002, Section 8: 71-72)

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

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

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

National Register Criteria Consideration:

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

Time Period: BCE 5498 - CE 1502

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Post-Archaic and Prehistoric Developments	Eastern Farmers	
Peopling Places	Post-Archaic and Prehistoric Developments	Hunters and Gatherers	

Time Period: CE 1635 - CE 1959

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Agriculture	Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And Vegetables)	
Developing the American Economy	The Farmer's Frontier	Farming the Northeast	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Colonial (1600-1730)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Craftsman (1890-1915)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Federal (1780-1820)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Period Revivals (1870-1940)	
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	War in the North	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	Regional Efforts: New England, 1860-1900: Regionalism And Preservation; Private Historical Societies; Society For The Preservation Of New England Antiquities	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Agriculture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Prehistoric

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

NRIS Information:

NRIS ID:	02001445
Primary Certification Date:	11/29/2002
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy
NRIS ID:	02001445
Primary Certification Date:	11/29/2002
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	LIN.F and LIN.G
Name:	Minute Man National Historical Park
Listed Date:	10/16/1966

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE *	Farmed/Harvested	Human habitation begins in the region 12,000 years ago.
CE 600 - 1630	Farmed/Harvested	Algonquian people inhabit the area, planting crops and constructing fishing weirs along the Musketequid River (Concord River).
CE 1635	Established	Puritans establish the Concord Plantation along the concord River. This marks the beginning of European development.
CE 1636	Land Transfer	By 1636, Concord Plantation begins allocating house lots along the base of an east-west ridgeline (known today as Revolutionary Ridge). This initial apportionment of land in Concord became known as the First Division.
CE 1636	Developed	By 1636, a four-rod (66`) wide road runs parallel to the east-west ridgeline, bisecting the First Division house lots.
CE 1640	Expanded	In the early 1640s, Cambridge extends its western border to the eastern edge of the Concord Plantation. The extended area is known as Cambridge Farms.
CE 1647	Settled	David Fiske II marries Lydia Cooper in 1647, and around that time Lydia’s step-father Gregory Stone gives David 16 acres of land in Cambridge Farms on the south side of what will become Fiske Hill. This is the first homestead and original seed of the Fiske family estate on Fiske Hill.
	Built	David Fiske II builds a small dwelling on the south side of Fiske Hill.
	Land Transfer	Between 1652 and 1663, Concord Plantation distributes additional acreage during the town`s Second Division of land. When completed, house lots extend throughout the entire plantation, including within the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1662	Land Transfer	David Fiske I dies and leaves his estate and land holdings in Watertown to his son David Fiske II. There is no indication that David Fiske II ever occupied the Watertown land and he held the land for only a few years before selling it.
CE 1664	Land Transfer	In 1664, David Fiske II purchases 20 acres of land from Samuel Stone in Cambridge Farms, adjoining his original 16-acre homestead.
CE 1666	Developed	By 1666, the road bisecting the First Division house lots is extended west through the entire length of the present-day Battle Road Unit. The Bay Road (as it was known during early colonial times) is the primary route between Concord and Boston.
CE 1674	Built	David Fiske III marries Sarah Day and builds a new house and other farm buildings about 400 feet north of his father’s house on the road to Concord.
CE 1676	Land Transfer	David Fiske II sells his inheritance in Watertown, comprising 146 acres of land.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1683	Land Transfer	In 1683, David Fiske II buys an additional 32 acres of land in Cambridge Farms.
CE 1693	Land Transfer	David Fiske III purchases 5 acres of land, adding to an unknown amount of land he already owned.
CE 1700	Altered	By 1700, thirty percent of the Concord Plantation forests have been cleared.
CE 1700	Built	David Fiske III's son Jonathan marries and builds a new house about 600 feet east of his father's house. As David Fiske II's house was still standing at this point, Jonathan`s house represented the third Fiske house built on Fiske Hill.
CE 1710	Land Transfer	David Fiske II dies. The inventory of his estate includes a description of his house and its contents, indicating that the house was inhabited at the time of his death, presumably by Fiske himself.
CE 1710 - 1721	Destroyed	By 1721, the probate files for David Fiske II's estate describe his "mansion house" in the past tense, indicating that it is no longer standing at this point. Archeological evidence in the 1960s suggest that it may have burned down.
CE 1712	Land Transfer	David Fiske III purchases 86 acres containing a house and barn from his son Jonathan. How Jonathan acquired the land in not known.
CE 1713	Established	Cambridge Farms separates from Cambridge and incorporates as the town of Lincoln.
CE 1715	Land Transfer	David Fiske III sells the land obtained from his son Jonathan to another son, Ebenezer. Ebenezer, 23 years old, likely moves into the house on the property.
CE 1716	Platted	A survey of the Battle Road in Concord indicates the width of the road increases east to west from four rods (66`) to ten rods (165`).
CE 1721	Land Transfer	When David Fiske II's estate is settled, his land is divided between his son David III, his daughters and sons-in-law Elizabeth and John Russel, Abigail and Henry Baldwin, and Timothy Carter. By this time David III already owns the land abutting the sixteen acres on the north.
CE 1722	Land Transfer	Ebenezer Fiske purchases 7 acres from Widow Lydia Pearse.
CE 1723	Land Transfer	David Fiske III purchases 9-1/4 acres of the land originally inherited by Abigail and Henry Baldwin.
CE 1723	Land Transfer	David Fiske IV purchases 12-1/2 acres of the land originally inherited by Abigail and Henry Baldwin.
CE 1725	Land Transfer	David Fiske III purchases 7 acres of upland from Thomas Meriam.
CE 1729	Land Transfer	David Fiske III sells his estate to his son Ebenezer, including a house lot with a house, barn, and outbuildings and 60 acres of land. He and his wife both die later that year. Ebenezer seems to have moved into his father's house, as he appears to sell his own house the next year.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1730	Land Transfer	Ebenezer Fiske sells 100 acres of his land to Walter Fairfield of Wenham. This land appears to include the land he had acquired from his brother Jonathan and the house he had lived in for 15 years.
CE 1738	Platted	A survey of the Battle Road (Country Road then) in Lexington indicates the width of the road varies between four rods (66') and seven rods (116') from the Concord-Lexington town line to the Ebenezer Fiske house (western end of present-day Battle Road Unit).
CE 1754	Established	The town of Lincoln is established. Included within its boundary are the portions of the Concord Plantation and the town of Lexington within the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1756	Land Transfer	Ebenezer Fiske gives to his son Benjamin 25 acres of land, as well as a quarter interest in the rest of his Lexington land.
CE 1770	Developed	About 25 house lots are located along Battle Road. The typical house lot is 60 to 80 acres, includes a barn, several outbuildings, orchard, and small garden.
CE 1773	Purchased/Sold	The town of Lexington purchases land along the north side of the Battle Road for road realignment.
CE 1775	Farmed/Harvested	By 1775, all cultivatable land within the present-day Battle Road Unit supports subsistence crops of Indian corn, rye, and other grains.
CE 1775	Military Operation	On April 19, 1775, colonists engage in battle with British Regulars, starting the American Revolutionary War. Colonial minutemen and militia confront the British troops along the entire length of the Battle Road from Concord to Boston.
CE 1775	Land Transfer	Ebenezer Fiske dies in December 1775 and his estate is inherited by his son Benjamin.
CE 1785	Land Transfer	Benjamin Fiske dies, and 1/3 of the estate passes to his widow and 2/3 to his son Benjamin II, who will receive it when he comes of age in 1799.
CE 1799	Land Transfer	Benjamin Fiske II comes of age and attains his 2/3 interest in his father's estate. He sells his interest to Joshua Simonds, who runs an Inn in the house for ten years.
CE 1802 - 1806	Altered	Between 1802 and c.1806, the towns of Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington realign portions of the Battle Road to provide more efficient travel between Concord and Boston. Subsequent chronological entries will refer to the road as realigned 1802 - c.1806 as the North Great Road.
CE 1806	Developed	The Cambridge Turnpike (known today as Route 2) is built south of the Battle Road (outside the Battle Road Unit).
CE 1809	Land Transfer	Joshua Simonds sells the 2/3 interest in the Fiske farm and Ebenezer Fiske house to his brother-in-law Robert Parker.
CE 1820	Farmed/Harvested	Beginning in 1820, pasture clearing and hayfield planting significantly increased along the Battle Road, to support larger cattle herds.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1830	Farmed/Harvested	As a result of the temperance movement of the early 1800s, the consumption of hard cider decreases. Farmers within the present-day Battle Road Unit begin to replace cider orchards with fancy fruit orchards.
CE 1840	Land Transfer	Robert Parker dies and the Fiske Farm passes to his heirs.
CE 1845	Land Transfer	After Rebecca Fiske dies her 1/3 interest is conveyed to the heirs of Robert Parker.
CE 1850	Farmed/Harvested	By the mid-1800s, only ten percent of forest lands remain.
CE 1850	Farmed/Harvested	By the 1850s, farmers along the road begin adapting farm buildings, structures, and field configurations to support commercial agricultural production. Crops raised are sold to neighboring industrial towns.
CE 1851	Land Transfer	The heirs of Robert Parker sell the Fiske Farm to Daniel Chamberlain.
CE 1851	Demolished	Daniel Chamberlain demolishes or substantially alters the Ebenezer Fiske house.
CE 1852	Built	Daniel Chamberlain builds a new, larger house on the foundation of the Ebenezer Fiske house.
CE 1857	Land Transfer	Daniel Chamberlain sells the Fiske property and his house to John A. Meriam.
CE 1860	Settled	By the 1860s, immigrant families (of Irish descent being the most prevalent) begin purchasing farms along the Battle Road on marginal land or land abandoned by colonial descendants who have relocated to more fertile agricultural land in the Midwest.
CE 1862	Land Transfer	John A. Meriam sells the Fiske property and house to Robert Simpson.
CE 1863	Land Transfer	Robert Simpson sells the Fiske property and house to Samuel Dudley.
CE 1885	Land Transfer	Samuel Dudley sells the Fiske property and house to William J. Neville.
CE 1885	Memorialized	A stone tablet is placed at the Fiske house site to mark the location of the Hayward well.
CE 1890	Farmed/Harvested	By the late 1800s, woodlands cover approximately forty percent of the western half of the present-day Battle Road Unit. Farm acreage decreased geographically onto better soils, such as the eastern half of the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1890	Land Transfer	By the late 1800s, middle-income Boston merchants and businessmen begin purchasing agricultural land within the present-day Battle Road Unit for homes.
CE 1895	Developed	In the mid-1890s, the Massachusetts Highway Commission (the nation’s first state highway commission) prepares layout plans for a state road that extends through the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1902	Land Transfer	Sarah F. Neville sells the Fiske property and house to Bedros H. and Toros H. Bashian.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1924	Established	Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox establishes the nine-person Commission on the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the American Revolution (The Commission) to recommend a AD commemorative program for the 150th anniversary of the opening battles of the American Revolution.
CE 1924	Planned	The nine-person Commission appointed by Governor Cox recommends establishment of a permanent memorial honoring the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution. In consultation with Landscape Architect Arthur Shurtleff (later known as Arthur Shurcliff), commission members examine sites along the Battle Road for a proposed Memorial Highway.
CE 1925	Planned	In January 1925, Arthur Shurtleff submits a report to The Commission in which he recommends preserving nearly two miles of the original Battle Road that include the two large bends in the road bypassed in the early 1800s. He also recommends acquisition of four hundred feet or more on each side of the road to preserve the character of the rural road. The state does not act upon Shurtleff's recommendations.
CE 1930 - 1940	Altered	Middlesex County realigns a significant section of the Battle Road at Fiske Hill to provide safer passage for auto users, and additional roads are constructed in the area by 1940.
CE 1930	Farmed/Harvested	In comparison to the 1880s U.S. Census, the 1930 census includes a more ethnically diverse immigrant population. Family nationalities include Irish, Canadian, German, Italian, Swedish, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Armenian, and Dutch. Many of these families operate farms and roadside produce stands.
CE 1933 - 1935	Developed	A bypass road diverting traffic from North Great Road (known today as State Route 2A) to the Concord Turnpike (Route 2) is built just west of Brooks Road.
CE 1941	Built	Construction of the Laurence G. Hanscom Airfield starts. The airfield borders the northern boundary of the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1950	Built	In the early 1950s, the federal government completes construction of Interstate 128, the first limited access highway in Massachusetts. Easy access to the highway from Route 2A promotes residential development within the present-day Battle Road Unit.
CE 1955	Established	The federal government establishes the Boston National Historic Sites Commission (BNHSC) to investigate the possibility of establishing a coordinated program between federal, state, and local governments to preserve the most important colonial properties in and around Boston.
CE 1955	Demolished	Martin Bashian demolishes the house built in 1851 by Daniel Chamberlain.
CE 1955	Land Transfer	Martin Bashian, the son of Toros H. Bashian, sells the Fiske property and house to Frida Selmer Seabury.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1956	Planned	The BNHSC consults with Landscape Architect Arthur Shurcliff (formerly known as Arthur Shurtleff) regarding their study. In a letter to the BNHSC, Shurcliff recommends preserving a portion of the road from “Fiske Hill towards Concord.”
CE 1958	Planned	The BNHSC completes an interim report to Congress in June 1958. The report recommends establishment of a national park, to be known as “Minute Man.” The proposed park would include four miles of the Battle Road from Meriam’s Corner in Concord to Route 128 in Lexington.
CE 1959	Planned	On January 21, 1959, the BNHSC submits the Interim Report.
CE 1959	Established	On April 19, 1959, the federal government officially designates an eight-acre unit in today’s Nelson Farm Area as a national historical site.
CE 1959 - 1960	Established	On September 21, 1959, Public Law 86-321 establishes Minute Man National Historical Park. The park boundary also includes the eight-acre parcel designated as a national historic site six months earlier, along with the Farwell Jones and Olive Stow properties. The park opens to the public in 1960.
CE 1960	Planned	The first official park boundary study is completed. The report delineates minimum park boundaries within a 750-acre limit specified in the enabling legislation.
CE 1960 - 1980	Established	In the 1960s and 1970s several colonial properties and structures are researched and documented. The reports serve as a foundation for preparation of the park’s first master plan.
CE 1961	Land Transfer	Frida Selmer Seabury sells the Fiske property and house to the National Park Service and it becomes part of Minute Man NHP.
CE 1962	Planned	The 1960 boundary study is revised. The study also recommends removing through traffic from the Battle Road and rerouting it south of the park.
CE 1965 - 1966	Planned	The park’s first master plan is formally adopted. The plan specifies rehabilitation of the 1775 historic scene. It also proposes relocation of Route 2A.
CE 1965	Land Transfer	Around this time, the park acquires the former turkey farm on the Hinds family parcel, giving them nearly forty acres of Fiske Hill land.
CE 1968	Planned	The National Park Service Office of Resource Planning prepares a special study that identifies buildings and structures within the park boundary to be retained, removed, or demolished. Although most late-19th century and 20th century buildings are removed as recommended in the report, the agricultural structures on the Farwell Jones farm remain. The Stow-Hardy House and the Farwell Jones house are identified for future acquisition. The study also discusses establishment of proposed historic motor trails within the park.
CE 1976	Land Transfer	By 1976, the park has acquired 656 acres within the proposed 750-acre park.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1977	Planned	The state transportation secretary declines relocation of Route 2.
CE 1990	Planned	The park's General Management Plan is approved in July 1990.
CE 1992	Land Transfer	The park's boundaries are expanded and new land is acquired.
CE 1995	Built	Construction of the Battle Road Trail begins. Designed by Carol R. Johnson Associates, the trail spans the entire length of the Battle Road Unit from Meriam's Corner to Fiske Hill.
CE 2007	Established	February 7, 2007 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts designates the Battle Road Scenic Byway.

Physical History:

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. Much of the material is excerpted from the 2005 "Cultural Landscape Report for Battle Road Unit: Minute Man National Historical Park."

Road Names:
Since its construction in the 17th century the Battle Road has been given various names, such as the Bay Road and Country Road. For the purposes of this document the term "Battle Road" is used when describing the road as it existed in the 17th and 18th centuries. The road configuration formed between 1802 and 1806, which by-passed the Hartwell and Nelson areas, is called the North Great Road. All other roads are called by their present-day names.

PRE-COLONIAL PERIOD, to 1634

Between 15,000 and 18,000 years ago, the last glacier to cover New England created the topography managed by Native Americans and settled by English Puritans. The western portion of the present-day Battle Road Unit lies within the nutrient-rich geologic depression of glacial Lake Concord. Less fertile uplands composed of glacial till characterize the eastern half of the Battle Road Unit. (Cultural Landscape Report--hereafter CLR—2005: 13)

Human habitation in the region dates back 12,000 years when people hunted animals grazing among open spruce forests. The forests evolved as the earth's atmosphere warmed, and, about 8,000 years ago, oak forests dominated a productive landscape that provided early Native Americans with deer, squirrel, turkey, and a variety of tree nuts. Five thousand years later, a cooler climate led to declining productivity and a sparser Native American population. Native Americans gradually learned to exploit their environment, however, and those in southern New England traveled between seasonal hunting, fishing, gathering, and agricultural grounds. (CLR 2005: 13-14).

By the early 17th century, Algonquian people had inhabited the area along the Musketequid River, today's Concord River, for about a thousand years. Native Americans cleared forest land by fire, and the women planted corn seeds among the dead trees, which were removed from the fields as they fell. Native American men fished in the spring, and people gathered tubers, wild rice, and cranberries from the wet grassy meadows along the river to supplement their diets. In autumn, the men hunted in forests that covered ninety percent of the future Concord Plantation. The thick-canopied forests included species of oak, hickory, chestnut, maple, ash, and probably pine, beech, birch, and hemlock. (CLR 2005: 14, 16-17)

Like European settlers who would inhabit the land along the Musketequid River in the early 1600s, Native Americans manipulated and reshaped the landscape to increase food production. Pre-colonial Native American settlement along the Musketequid River ended in the 1630s, as European-introduced disease decimated the Native American population and European settlers moved into their former hunting, fishing, gathering and agricultural grounds. (CLR 2005: 17).

COLONIAL PERIOD, 1635 - 1783

Battle Road Area Development, 1635-1699:
Colonial settlement in North America is generally defined as the period between the settlement in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607 and the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. In Massachusetts, this period began with the arrival of English settlers in 1620. (CLR 2005: 19)

Inland settlement began when the Puritans established the six-mile-square Concord Plantation on the Musketequid River (Concord River) in 1635. The Concord Plantation included portions of present-day Concord and Lincoln townships within the present-day Battle Road Unit. In the early 1640s, Cambridge extended its western border to the eastern edge of the Concord Plantation. Known as Cambridge Farms, the land began near the center of present-day Lexington and continued northwest to the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. Cambridge Farms included parts of Lincoln and Lexington within the Battle Road Unit.(CLR 2005: 19)

By 1636, Concord Plantation, or simply Concord, allocated house lots along the base of an east-west ridgeline (known today as Revolutionary Ridge) about a mile south of the Concord River and extending to the western edge of the present-day Battle Road Unit. This apportionment of land was called the First Division, and settlers received both six- to eight-acre house lots and 30- to 50-acre agricultural lots within commonly held wet meadows, tillage fields, and special pastures. The remaining acreage within the plantation, known as the “commons,” was primarily forested and mostly served as communal pasture for livestock, which foraged through the forest consuming the understory. A road ‘foure Rodes [rods]’ (66 feet) wide paralleled the ridge line, bisecting the First Division house lots. This section of road would later be incorporated into what is now known as the Battle Road, which was fully laid out by 1666. (CLR 2005: 19, 21-22, 24)

During the Second Division (1652 to 1663), commonly held land was distributed to individuals, and three sections – the North, South, and East Quarters – were formed to facilitate distribution. In contrast to the “commons,” privately owned pastures were generally clear-cut and enclosed by walls or fences. The number of stone walls within the Battle Road Unit increased primarily due to clear-cutting, which reduced the insulating value of the topsoil and promoted frost heaving that pushed stones to the surface. As stones accumulated, they were often stacked to preserve space. (CLR 2005: 25-26)

Throughout the early Colonial period, farm production in the Battle Road area was subsistence based, each family producing enough food for personal consumption and perhaps a small amount for local trade. By the mid-1600s, cultivated varieties of English grasses began to replace native grasses. By 1700, thirty percent of Concord’s forests had been cleared, and only two expanses of woodland have been identified along the Battle Road at that time. During the 18th century, Colonial settlement would continue to alter the landscape of the Battle Road and Fiske Hill. (CLR 2005: 9, 25)

Fiske Hill Development, 1635-1699:
David Fiske, the patriarch of the Fiske family in Massachusetts, arrived from England around 1636, settling in Watertown, where he was a selectman in 1640 and 1643. His family, at the time they immigrated, consisted of his wife Sarah, his daughter Fitch, and son David II. (Hudson 1868b: 69)

David Fiske II, born in 1624 in England, was 12 years old when he arrived in Massachusetts with his family. (Hudson 1868b: 69) Around 1646, he married Lydia Cooper, stepdaughter of Gregory Stone, who was an early settler of Cambridge and a deacon in the church (Hudson 1868b: 235). Stone was well established in Cambridge at that time and owned a considerable amount of land on the western edge of town near the Concord border. About the time of their marriage, Gregory Stone gave David and his new bride sixteen acres of this land. (D. Snow 1969a: 4) David and Lydia had two children who survived infancy, Lydia, born in 1647, and David III, born in 1650. Both children were born in Cambridge, indicating that the family had settled there by 1647. (Baldwin 1914: 252-254). The timing of these events suggests that David built his house on the sixteen acre homestead in or around that year. Lydia Cooper died young in 1654, and within a year David married Seaborn Wilson, with whom he had five daughters, three of which, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Abigail, survived childhood. (Hudson

1868b: 69)

By 1664, David began to add to his original sixteen acres by purchasing twenty acres of adjoining land from Samuel Stone, son of Deacon Gregory Stone. The money for this new land may have come from the estate of his father, who died two years prior. In 1676, David and Seaborn sold the bulk of his father's Watertown land comprising 149 acres, and in 1683, he purchased another 32 acres in the same vicinity as his original Cambridge land, amassing at least 68 acres of meadow and pastureland over and around the hill that would later become known as Fiske Hill. (C. Snow 1968: 1-2)

David Fiske II was an active member of the small community that would eventually become Lexington. As more families settled on the western edge of Cambridge near its border with Concord, the distance from their homes to the meeting house in the center of Cambridge, between five and ten miles, became a hardship. In 1682, David Fiske Sr., as he was known at the time, joined James Cutler, Matthew Bridge Jr., Samuel Stone Sr., Francis Whitmore, John Tidd, Ephraim Winship, and John Winter in petitioning the General Court of Cambridge for an act constituting them a district parish with its own church and minister. The town of Cambridge initially resisted the effort, insisting that the residents of the area, known as Cambridge Farms, travel the distance every Sunday to attend church in the center of town. The petition was renewed several times over the next few years, and in 1691 Cambridge finally acquiesced and granted the new parish. David Fiske was among the five or six residents that were assessed the greatest contribution, both in the subscription for the new church and in the tax bill for the minister's salary, indicating that he was one of the largest holders of real estate and wealthiest residents at the incorporation of the parish. David Fiske went on to serve as clerk of the new parish, selectman, and chairman of a number of committees, and based on the prefix "Lieut." often affixed to his name, also served in a military capacity. (Hudson 1868a: 44-50)

David's only son, David Fiske III, married Sarah Day in 1674. At that point, the three daughters were still living at home with their parents, suggesting that David III and Sarah moved to their own home about that time. Although the first recorded deed for David Fiske III was for five acres purchased in 1694, it lists him as an abutter of the new land, confirming that he already owned land by that point, probably a gift from his father. By then, he and Sarah had a household of seven children: David (born in 1676), Jonathan (1679), Robert (1680), Lydia (1685), Sarah (1687), and Ebenezer (1692). (Hudson 1868b: 69)

It appears that David II lived the rest of his life in his original home. His probate inventory taken on his death in 1710 described the house and its contents, including a bed in the parlor; a bed and a press in the chamber; two beds in the east end of the house; pewter and books in the hall; and lumber in the cellar. The house and barn, and the orchards and yards consisting of about twenty-six acres, were valued at 142 pounds. (D. Snow 1969a: 5) The fact that the inventory included furnishings in the house suggests that Fiske was living there at the time of his death. By the time the estate was settled in 1721, a month after Seaborn died, the "mansion house" was referred to in the past tense, indicating that it no longer stood. This also suggests that Seaborn herself had moved from the house sometime before her death, possibly to live with her son.

Battle Road Area Development, 1700-1774:
During the 18th century, new house lots developed along the Battle Road, and old house lots passed to fourth and fifth generations. Through inheritance, large 17th-century properties were gradually subdivided, and as more land became privatized, fields and pastures were consolidated around house lots. Political boundaries also changed. In 1713, Cambridge Farms separated from Cambridge and incorporated as the town of Lexington. The town of Lincoln was established in 1754, its boundary including portions of Concord and Lexington located within the present-day Battle Road Unit. (CLR 2005: 26)

By the 1770s, about 25 house lots were located along Battle Road. A typical house lot averaged 60 to 80 acres, significantly larger than the six to eight-acre house lots of Concord's First Division. In addition to a barn and several outbuildings, house lots often included a small garden and an orchard. At least 15 orchards were located along the Battle Road in the 1770s, the large number probably due to the popularity of hard cider in the 18th century. Fruit trees could grow on the marginal upland soil

that was less suited for grain, making hard cider less expensive to produce than beer. According to Historical Landscape Architect Susan Dolan in her 2009 publication, A Fruitful Legacy, cider was the beverage of subsistence before potable water. (CLR 2005: 26, 28; Dolan 2009: 17)

While the communities remained subsistence oriented, a complex system of local exchange and several commercial enterprises began to develop. Towns along the Battle Road had reached an integrated system of land use by the mid-1700s. Local trades along the Battle Road included the Brooks Tannery, several blacksmith and locksmith shops, and a cider mill on the Jacob Whittemore farm. Taverns began to replace Puritan churches as centers of civic influence. Local colonists and travelers visited taverns to rest, drink, and discuss politics. Four taverns were located along the Battle Road (CLR 2005: 26, 35)

Existing roads were altered and improved throughout the 1700s to provide better transportation to neighboring towns, to market, to agricultural land, and between house lots. A 1716 Concord survey indicates that the Battle Road was widened substantially towards its eastern end, from 66 feet wide west of Meriam's Corner to 165 feet wide at today's Bloody Angle. In 1720 Concord men order the layout of a two-rod (33feet) road running from the southeast corner of John Jones's house lot north and easterly to the Brickiln field. In 1773 the town of Lexington shifted the roadbed north where it ran near Fiske Hill (the eastern end of the Battle Road Unit). (CLR 2005: 29, 34; OSHSR 2003: 13)

Fiske Hill Development, 1700-1774:
As the 18th century began, David Fiske III's sons began to come of age and establish families and homesteads of their own. Jonathan Fiske, his second-oldest son, settled on Fiske Hill around 1700 when he married Abigail Reed. In 1711 he purchased land in Sudbury, and a year later he sold his father 86 acres of Fiske Hill land that included a house and barn. Jonathan's original deed for this land has not been located, although his father-in-law William Reed was a landholder in the area, and it is possible Jonathan received land from him on his marriage (Pierce 1896: 95) Three years later, David Fiske III gave this same piece of land with the house to his son Ebenezer, who was 23 at the time. Ebenezer likely lived in this house until his parents' deaths in 1729. (C. Snow 1968: 5)

David Fiske II died in 1710, but his estate was not settled until 1721 when his land was divided between his son David Fiske III and his sons-in-law and daughters Henry and Abigail (Fiske) Baldwin, John and Elizabeth (Fiske) Russell, and Timothy Carter. David III received the original sixteen-acre homestead, which abutted land he already owned to the north. The daughters' families had settled elsewhere by this time, and between 1721 and 1729, they sold much of their inherited land to David III and Ebenezer. (C. Snow 1968: 3-6)

In 1729 David Fiske III conveyed his entire estate to his son Ebenezer, including a house, barn, and outbuildings and sixty acres of land. By this point, Ebenezer was the only Fiske family member to have remained on Fiske Hill. Ebenezer sold 100 acres of his land, likely the land once owned by his brother Jonathan, to Walter Fairfield, retaining for himself the core acreage that included David II's original 16-acre homestead and the land and house David III had lived in since 1674. (C. Snow 1968: 7)

Ebenezer Fiske lived in the house at the foot of the east slope of the hill on the south side of the road to Concord and farmed the land of Fiske Hill for more than forty-five years during the middle of the 18th century. He married Grace Harrington in 1718, but she died in 1721, four days after the birth of their first child, who also did not survive. Ebenezer shortly remarried to Bethia Muzzy, and the couple raised eight children in the Fiske Hill house. By the time of the battle in 1775, Ebenezer was an old man and had only a few months left to live. Bethia had died the year before, and his children were all grown and had left the house except his youngest son, 32-year-old Benjamin, and Benjamin's wife Rebecca Howe. (Hudson 1868: 71)

The Revolutionary War, 1775-1783:
Fiske Hill featured prominently in the in the events of the running battle of April 19, 1775. The route of the British troops along the Concord Road took them by the Fiske House in the morning on the way to Concord and again on their disastrous retreat back to Boston. By the time they reached Fiske Hill again that afternoon, the British had been subjected to fierce attack from the colonial militias for

more than two hours. Many had been killed and many more wounded. The troops had been on the march since the night before and were exhausted, hungry, thirsty, and running out of ammunition. Morale was low and many were panicked, and the officers were having a hard time keeping the retreat orderly. (Hudson 1913:127)

As they approached the stony bluff on the west side of Fiske Hill, the British were met with fire from colonists on the bluff. British flankers cleared the bluff, and the troops moved around the bend in the road and began to climb Fiske Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, in command of the British troops, halted the men there and attempted to restore order, but renewed fire from the surrounding woodlots defeated the effort. One British officer recalled, “When we arrived within a mile of Lexington, our ammunition began to fail, and the light companies were so fatigued with flanking that they were scarce able to act, and a great number of wounded scarce able to get forward, made a great confusion; Colonel Smith had received a wound through his leg, a number of officers were also wounded, so that we began to run rather than retreat in order…we attempted to stop the men and form them two deep, but to no purpose, the confusion increased rather than decreased.” (Hudson 1913: 127)

Fiske Hill was also the site of one of the more storied incidents of the battle. According to accounts, a young soldier from Acton, James Hayward, stopped at the Fiske well for a drink when he saw a British soldier coming from the house. Both fired and struck the other; the British soldier was killed instantly and Hayward was mortally wounded. Adding drama to the incident was the purported exchange between the two as they fired. The British soldier cried, “you are a dead man,” and Hayward replied, “and so are you.” (Hudson 1913: 168)

An article written in the Harvard Register in June 1827 contains a description of the day’s events, including the incident at the well, as told by a “very old lady” who was present at the time of the battle. Although the woman is not named in the article, the details contained in the account indicate that she was Rebecca Fiske, the daughter-in-law of Ebenezer Fiske and wife of Benjamin Fiske, who lived in the area until her death in 1845 and often told stories from the day of the battle.
“I heard the guns at about day-break, but being unapprehensive of danger, did not, like most of our neighbors, move off for fear of the enemy; especially as my father was confined to his bed of a severe sickness, so that fleeing from the house we must leave him behind, which I could not consent to. … I, therefore, and my husband, who, on account of a certain indisposition, was incapacitated for military service, remained in the house with our father, while the enemy passed; which they did without offering us any injury.” (Harvard Register 1828: 112-114)

Later in the morning, however, the sound of musketry in Concord announced the commencement of the battle.
“It was a sound of death to us. All now was trepidation, fever, and rushing to arms; women and children bewildered and scouring across the fields. With much ado, we succeeded in yoking our oxen and getting father on his bed into an ox-cart, and thus moving him off as carefully as we could to a neighbor’s house, at some distance from the highway, on which we expected the enemy to return.” (Harvard Register 1828: 112-114)

The house they evacuated to had already been deserted, and Rebecca was left alone there with Ebenezer. As the sound of war grew nearer, she withdrew to the house cellar, looking out occasionally to watch for the approaching soldiers.
“After remaining some time in this dreadful state of fear and suspense, I at last discovered the enemy coming down a long hill on the highway, partly upon a run and in some confusion, being closely beset by ‘our men’ in flank and rear.” (Harvard Register 1828: 112-114)

After the din had passed and she deemed it safe, Rebecca returned home.
“But what an altered scene began to present itself, as I approached the house - garden walls thrown down - my flowers trampled upon - earth and herbage covered with the marks of hurried footsteps. The house had been broken open, and on the doorstep - awful spectacle - there lay a British soldier dead, on his face, though yet warm, in his blood, which was still trickling from a bullet-bole though his vitals. His bosom and his pockets were stuffed with my effects, which he had been pillaging, having broken into the house through a window.” (Harvard Register 1828: 112-114)

Upon entering the house she found three more soldiers: a dying Briton, a wounded Irishman, and James Hayward, shot through the side. The Irishman survived, but the two British soldiers were taken by Benjamin Fiske in the cart to be buried in one of their pastures. James Hayward's father came and carried his body home to Acton. (Harvard Register 1828: 112-114)

Ebenezer Fiske died before the end of 1775, and Benjamin Fiske inherited his estate. Benjamin and Rebecca had been married more than ten years before their first child, Benjamin II, was born in 1778. Their second child, Elizabeth, was born five years later, but their growing family was curtailed at two when Benjamin died in 1785. (Pierce 1896: 123)

RURAL ECONOMIC PERIOD, 1784 - 1899

Battle Road Area Development, 1784-1843:
Economic hardships persisted for a brief period after the war, but Massachusetts's economy recovered in the 1790s when high tariffs imposed on British goods prompted the growth of domestic industries such as textile mills, tanneries, and shoe factories. A number of small industries were located in Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington. New England farmers also benefited from industrialization, as they raised sheep for use in textile mills and livestock to sell in emerging urban centers. Beginning in 1820, woodland clearing for pastures and meadows significantly increased along the Battle Road to support larger cattle herds. By the mid-1800s only ten percent of local woodlands remained. Farmers along the road began adapting farm buildings, structures, and field configurations to support commercial agricultural production, and crops raised were sold to neighboring industrial towns. (CLR 2005: 47-48)

While secondary roads remained in poor condition, larger roads were improved and new roads were constructed to support vehicle traffic and livestock drives. The Battle Road was greatly altered between 1802 and 1806, as the towns of Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington realigned portions of the road to provide more efficient travel between Concord and Boston. Also in 1806, the Cambridge Turnpike (today's Route 2) was constructed south of the Battle Road. Although not within the bounds of the present-day Battle Road Unit, the presence of the turnpike altered traffic flow along the Battle Road by the mid-1800s, and a 20th-century realignment of the turnpike influenced early planning of the present-day Minute Man National Historical Park. (CLR 2005: 48, 55)

The improvement of the Battle Road and construction of new roads did not bolster area industry for long. The small towns did not have sufficient water flow necessary to support large-scale industry and could not compete with locations such as Lowell at the confluence of the Concord and Merrimac Rivers. Battle Road area taverns also went out of business by the 1840s. While consuming large quantities of alcohol during the Colonial Period was acceptable, by the early 1800s drinking was perceived as a social problem. Additionally, the construction of the Cambridge Turnpike undoubtedly diverted clientele away from the taverns along the Battle Road and North Great Road. By the 1830s farmers along the Battle Road began to replace their cider orchards with dessert fruit orchards. (CLR 2005: 53-54)

The 1840s landscape along the Battle Road would have included many similar features found in the colonial landscape – stone walls, fences, pastures and fields, orchards, houses, and barns – although their configuration was undoubtedly different. A view of the 19th-century roadside would include larger pastures, barns, and outbuildings necessary to support commercial dairy production, a mix of cider and fancy fruit trees as farmers responded to the declining cider consumption, and the absence of local trade and tavern establishments. (CLR 2005: 55)

Fiske Hill Development, 1784-1843:
Benjamin Fiske died intestate in 1785, and his children were still too young to inherit his estate. As was customary, his widow, Rebecca, received one third of the estate and his son, Benjamin II, would receive two thirds when he came of age in 1799. Rather than establishing a one third/two thirds undivided interest in the estate as a whole, the division indicated specific parcels and property that were to be received by each party. The "widow's third" included the "training field" and pasture adjoining (about 14 acres), a piece of woodland, mowing, and pasture (about 12 acres) the stock yard (about 1/4 acre), the small garden between the house and the barn, half of the close garden, the easterly half of the mansion house (except the southeastern chamber), a third part of one half of the pew in the meeting house, the western end of the barn and cow yard, and half of the hog house. The two thirds received a pasture on the north side of the road (about 3 acres), the pasture called Fiske's Hill (about 11 acres), Beavergray Meadow (about 150 rods), the south field (7 acres), the old (David Fiske II's) house lot, the west half of the close yard north of the barn, the pasture south of the house (1 acre) a piece east of the house (128 rods), the west half of the house (and the southeastern chamber), the corn house, and the east end of the barn. (C. Snow 1968: 16)

This inventory provides information about the contents and layout of the Fiske homestead at the end

of the 18th century. In addition to the house and barn, the homestead included a cow yard, hog house, corn shed, a number of small gardens, and a quarter-acre stock yard. In 1987, the NPS Archeological Collections Management Program (ACMP) used this description together with other historical sources and archeological evidence to generate a speculative layout of the homestead (Figure 1). (Archeological Collections Management Program—hereafter ACMP--1987: 275)

Rebecca married William Merriam in 1786, and likely moved to her new husband's home at that time. For the next few years she recorded rent received for the Fiske Hill house. During this time, she also sold portions of the farm, including the large hill pasture. (C. Snow 1968: 15) When Benjamin II came of age in 1799, he sold his two-thirds interest in the house and remaining land to Joshua Simonds, who ran a tavern in the house for about a decade. In 1709, Joshua sold the house to his brother-in-law Robert Parker, youngest son of Captain John Parker, who kept it until his death in 1840. (ACMP 1987: 270; Hudson 1868: 173, 215)

It does not appear that Rebecca relinquished her one-third interest during her lifetime, which lasted until 1845, although how she managed that interest is unknown. Her second husband died around 1810, and Rebecca did not remarry. She was assessed for her one third of the Fiske homestead and paid taxes on it until 1840. (ACMP 1987: 270) It is possible that following her husband's death, she moved back into the house for a while. Both Joshua Simonds and Robert Parker owned other land and other houses, and may not have resided in the Fiske House. The possibility that Rebecca lived in the house at some point during Robert Parker's ownership is supported by the 1827 Harvard Register article, which states that the "very old lady" still lived in the same "bevel-roofed house" she had lived in at the time of the battle.

Battle Road Area Development, 1844-1899:
Advances in agricultural technology, western migration, and the advent of the railroad brought additional changes to the agricultural landscape. The expanding number of colonial descendants found it increasingly difficult to farm the limited agricultural space in the rocky uplands bordering the Battle Road. New agricultural implements, designed for the rolling, fertile soils of the Midwest, were less efficient in the stone strewn New England soils. Many left to establish farms in the Midwest, and after the advent of the railroad, the flow of settlers traveling west was matched by train loads of inexpensive meat and grain traveling along the rail lines to eastern cities. Unable to compete with Midwest products, local farmers adapted production, specializing in perishable produce (milk, apples, cucumbers, etc.) transported by local rail to the growing urban markets. (CLR 2005: 55)

Farmers adapted structures and field configurations to support increasingly commercialized operations. Stone walls were often dismantled, for instance, to enlarge fields upon which mechanized farming equipment would be used. Local farmers also relied more heavily on wage laborers. Filling this need was a growing population of European immigrants arriving in Boston, of which the Irish were among the most prevalent in the mid-1800s. By the 1860s, immigrant families begin purchasing farms along the Battle Road, generally on marginal land or land abandoned by colonial descendants who had relocated to more fertile agricultural land in the Midwest. (CLR 2005: 55-58)

With the influx of inexpensive hay and grains from the Midwest, local farm acreage contracted geographically onto better soils, and worn out land reverted to woodland. A declining need for firewood also contributed to the rejuvenation of local forests as efficient Rumford fireplaces and Franklin stoves increasingly replaced colonial fireplaces, and coal replaced wood. By the late 1800s, woodlands covered approximately forty percent of the western half of the present-day Battle Road Unit. The eastern half remained open. (CLR 2005: 59-60)

By the late 1800s, the open, agricultural landscape of the Battle Road had changed. Farms were much more condensed, and four monuments commemorating the April 1775 battles had been placed along the Battle Road. These monuments and the battle sites and witness structures drew an increasing number of tourists to the area. By the 1870s, wealthy Bostonians had purchased agricultural fields and pastures within the towns bordering the Battle Road, converting those properties into large summer estates. By the late 1800s, middle-income Boston merchants and businessmen purchased agricultural land within the present-day Battle Road Unit for smaller,

permanent residences. Men from these families commuted daily to and from Boston, primarily by train. The North Great Road was converted into a highway in the 1890s, and its sophisticated construction of compacted stone provided more efficient travel to and from Boston and allowed for pleasurable use. The highway would primarily serve farmers hauling produce to market, tourists in carriages and omnibuses, and bicyclists. (CLR 2005: 65, 69, 71)

Fiske Hill Development, 1844-1899:
After Robert Parker died, his heirs kept the house until 1851, when they sold it to Daniel Chamberlain. Tax records from 1852 indicate that the old house was removed and replaced that year with a new house of twice the value, which remained on the site for another century. Current belief is that the new house was constructed over the original foundation and cellar hole, however this assertion has been the subject of debate, as several archeological and historical investigations conducted since the 1960s have come to contradictory conclusions about the location of the original Fiske house. The 1852 house, whether located at the site of the Fiske house or not, comprised a completely or substantially new structure, with a north-south oriented, side-gable east structure with a front door on the east facade, and an ell behind the house extending toward the west (Figures 2 and 3).

In the second half of the 19th century, the Fiske house went through a series of ownership changes. Daniel Chamberlain sold the house to John Meriam in 1857, who sold to Robert Simpson in 1862, who in turn sold to Samuel Dudley in 1863. (ACMP 1987: 271-272) Dudley owned the house for about twenty years, during which time he made substantial alterations to it, although the nature of these alterations is not known. (C. Snow 1969: 18) In 1885 Samuel Dudley sold the house to William J. Neville, who owned it through the end of the 19th century.

In 1885, a stone tablet was placed at the Fiske house site to mark the location of the Hayward well. Originally the tablet was mounted flush within a stone wall, similar to other monument tablets in the park (Figure 4). On the tablet was inscribed:
AT THIS WELL/APRIL 19 1775/JAMES HAYWARD OF ACTON/MET A BRITISH SOLDIER/WHO RAISING HIS GUN SAID/YOU ARE A DEAD MAN/AND SO ARE YOU REPLIED HAYWARD/BOTH FIRED, THE SOLDIER/WAS INSTANTLY KILLED/& HAYWARD MORTALLY WOUNDED

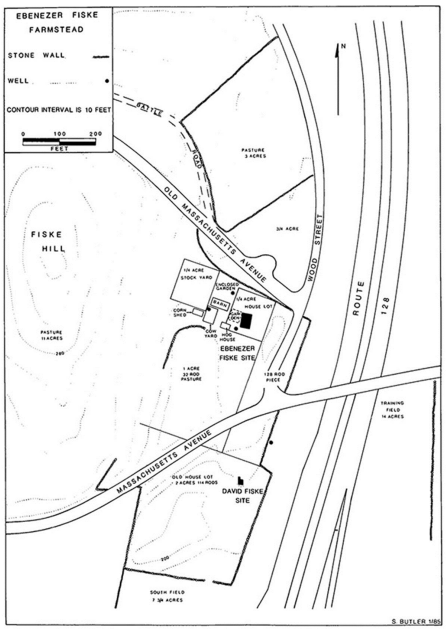


Figure 1. Speculative period plan depicting the Ebenezer Fiske house site in 1775 overlaid with modern highways. (ACMP 1987)

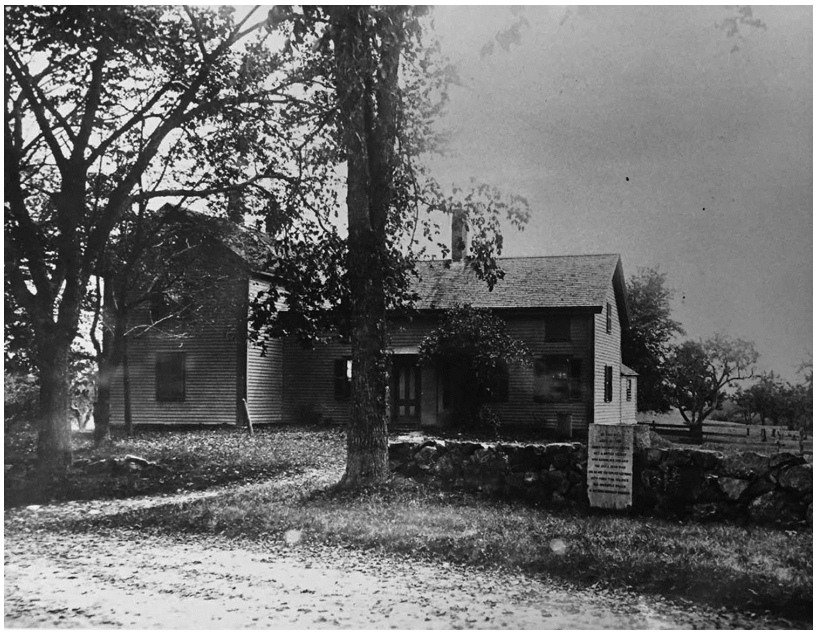


Figure 2. The house at the site of the Ebenezer Fiske house, later known as the Bashian house, late 19th century. The photo was likely taken not long after the Hayward Well memorial tablet was installed in 1885. (MIMA Archives).

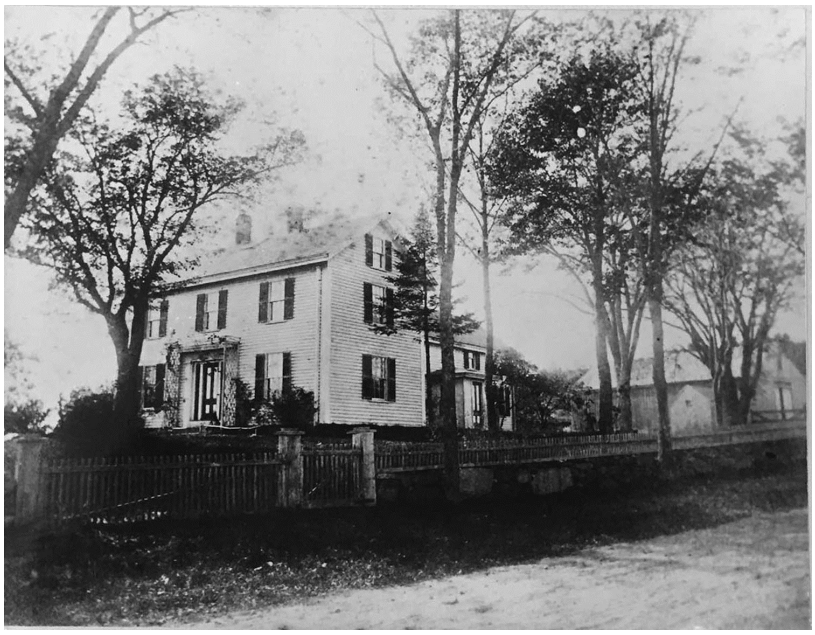


Figure 3. The house at the site of the Ebenezer Fiske house, later known as the Bashian house, late 19th century or early 20th century. The large barn, later known as the Bashian barn, is visible behind the house. (MIMA Archives)



Figure 4. A postcard from the late 19th Century depicting the Hayward Well monument at the Ebenezer Fiske house site. (MIMA Archives)

SUBURBANIZATION OF THE BATTLEGROUND LANDSCAPE, 1900 - 1958

Battle Road Area Development, 1900-1958:
Dramatic landscape changes occurred during the early- and mid-1900s. In 1880 almost 100% of landowners in the present-day Battle Road Unit were farmers, and only Irish and Canadian

immigrants were listed in the census. By 1930, however, only 67% operated farms, and families came from Ireland, Canada, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Portugal, and numerous other countries. Twice as many non-agricultural households existed in the Battle Road area by that time. (CLR 2005: 77-79)

The state highway (Route 2A), which included a significant portion of the 19th-century North Great Road and a large portion of the colonial Battle Road, remained the major east-west route connecting Concord to the Massachusetts Bay. The by-passed section of road around Fiske Hill was significantly altered by 1930, and additional roads were also constructed by 1940. The highway and new roads supported ever increasing tourism. (CLR 2005: 79-82)

As modern improvements replaced historic homes and obstructed historic sites, a preservation movement emerged. In 1924, Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox established a nine-person commission to recommend a commemorative program for the 150th Anniversary of the American Revolution. In consultation with Landscape Architect Arthur Shurcliff (known then as Arthur Shurtleff), commission members examined sites along the Battle Road for a proposed Memorial Highway. In January 1925, Shurcliff submitted a report to the commission in which he recommended preserving nearly two miles of the original Battle Road, prominently including the two large bends in the road (Hartwell and Nelson areas) bypassed in the early 1800s. He also recommended acquisition of at least 400 feet on each side of the road to preserve its rural character. The state did not act upon Shurcliff's recommendations. (CLR 2005: 83-84)

In 1941, just prior to the United States' entry into World War II, construction of the Laurence G. Hanscom Airfield began north of the Hartwell Tavern. The airport soon served as a training ground for Army Air Force squadrons during the war, and became a research center for military electronics after the war. While farming continued, the growing workforce at the Hanscom Airfield and a regional need for suburban housing accelerated the transformation of Battle Road agricultural fields into residential lots with groomed lawns, ornamental plantings, and expanding woodlands. New commercial businesses came with parking lots, sidewalks, signs, and gas pumps. In the early 1950s, the federal government completed construction of Interstate 128, the first limited access highway in Massachusetts. Easy access from the interstate to Route 2A promoted traffic congestion along the highway and residential development within Battle Road area. (CLR 2005: 89-95)

In 1955 the federal government established the Boston National Historic Sites Commission (BNHSC) for the purpose of exploring how to preserve the most important colonial properties in and around Boston. The BNHSC identified the entire Battle Road from Boston to Concord as significant. However, Route 128, which severed the Battle Road just east of Fiske Hill, was seen as 'the dividing line between the retrievable and irretrievable past,' and the commission only considered land west of I-128 as worthy of preservation. (BNHSC as cited in CLR 2005: 95)

In 1956, the BNHSC consulted with Arthur Shurcliff regarding their study. In a letter to the BNHSC, Shurcliff recommended preserving a portion of the road from 'Fiske Hill toward Concord,' and he made specific recommendations for features to remove, preserve, and construct. In January 1957 a conflict arose between the BNHSC and U.S. Air Force, as the Air Force was constructing a large military housing project near the Josiah Nelson farmstead. The BNHSC requested preservation of an eight-acre parcel including the Nelson home and a witness boulder. In May 1957, the Air Force reduced the housing project size, and the Under-Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) requested that the parcel be transferred to the DOI. In 1958, the BNHSC completed an interim report for submission to Congress the following year. The report recommended establishment of a national historical park that would include the eight-acre parcel and four miles of the Battle Road from Meriam's Corner in Concord to Route 128 in Lexington. The park would be known as "Minute Man," and the National Park Service gained possession of the eight-acre parcel on December 8, 1958. (Shurcliff to BNHSC as cited in CLR 2005: 96-100)

Fiske Hill Development, 1900-1958:
During the first half of the 20th century, the Fiske house site and the land around it was owned by the Bashian family. Brothers, and Armenian immigrants, Toros and Bedros Bashian purchased the house in 1902 after being in the country for about ten years. Toros was single, but Bedros was

married with two young sons. Apparently touched by the history of his house, Bedros named his third son, born in 1905, Martin Fiske Bashian. In 1936, Bedros died and left portions of his land, including the Hayward Well monument and "the field where Major Pitcairn's pistols were captured in April, 1775" to the Lexington Historical Society, and in a largely symbolic gesture, he bequeathed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a plot of land referred to as the "burial grounds of British Soldiers who were killed on April 19, 1775." By 1940, only Toros and his nephew Martin were still living in the house (Figure 5).

During the 20th century, the roads throughout the park were improved to accommodate travel by automobile. The section of the Battle Road around Fiske Hill was realigned in 1907, widening it in several places. This involved the removal of several sections of stone walls and a portion of the bluff, and the regrading of portions of the hill. In 1930, the road was realigned again and the county removed most or all of the pre-1907 alignment and the 1907 realignment, although the alignment of the road was still discernable in the forest. The new road was aligned primarily south of the old bed (Figures 6 and 7).

After the 1940s, the condition of the house and farm declined. Images from 1947 show the house and yard in poor condition, however at least a portion of the yard was still being cultivated at that time (Figures 8 and 9). Martin had the house demolished in 1955 and sold the property the same year to Frida Selmer Seabury. The Bashians only owned a portion of what was the Fiske farm. Land on the western side of the hill was owned by the Hinds family, who operated a turkey farm called Pine Hill Farm during the first half of the 20th century. The farm raised thousands of turkeys on large areas of open pasture.



Figure 5. The Bedros family in front of their house, circa 1910. (MIMA Archives)

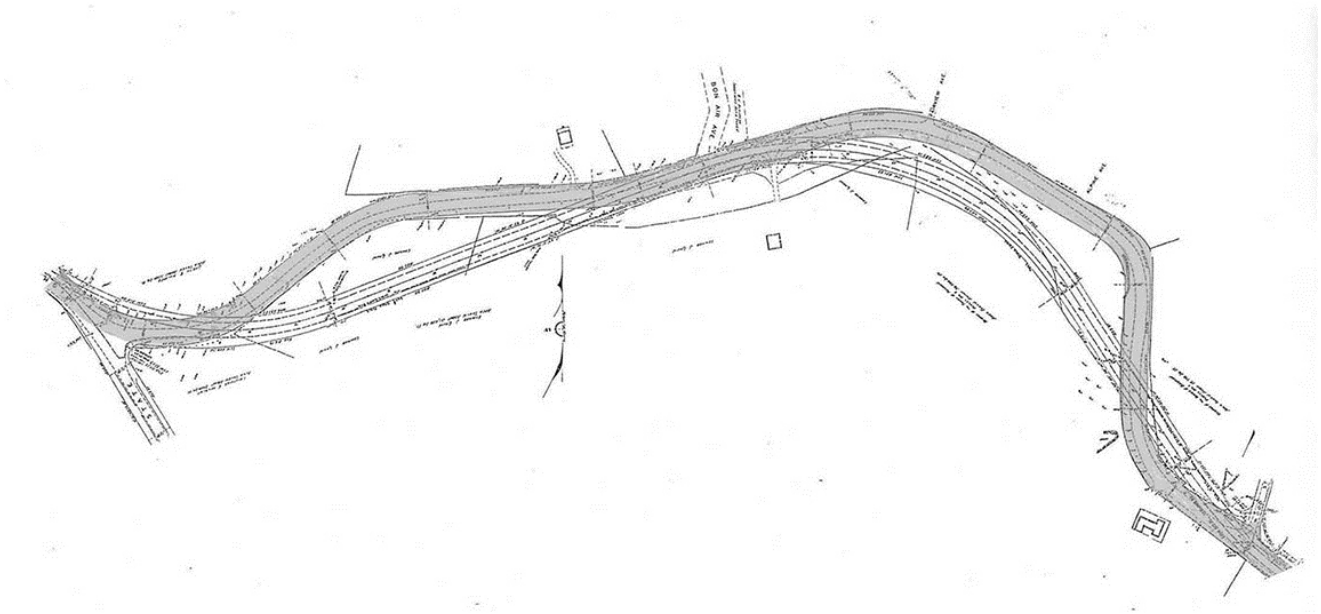


Figure 6. Map of the realignment of Massachusetts Avenue in 1930. The gray portion of the road is the alignment from 1907, with the proposed new alignment in white. (Plan Department, Middlesex South Registry of Deeds)



Figure 7. Photo of Battle Road near Fiske Hill in the 1950s. (MIMA Archives)



Figure 8. Historic photo of the Bashian House in 1947, not long before it was demolished. (MIMA Archives)



Figure 9. Historic photo of the Bashian House in 1947, not long before it was demolished. A cultivated field or garden is still visible in the foreground. (MIMA Archives)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PERIOD, 1959 - PRESENT

Battle Road Unit Development, 1959-present:
On January 21, 1959, the BNHSC submitted the Interim Report to Congress. The federal government officially designated the eight-acre Nelson home parcel as a national historic site on April 14, 1959, and established Minute Man National Historical Park on September 21, 1959 through Public Law 86-321. In addition to the Nelson parcel, the enabling legislation authorized the acquisition of lands along the Battle Road and lands around the North Bridge. (CLR 2005: 106)

In the early to mid-1960s, a number of buildings, archeological sites, and landscapes were researched and documented to give park staff a basic understanding of the historic properties and to serve as a foundation for preparation of the park's first master plan. Specific goals included establishment of 1775 land ownership and the identification and documentation of historic houses, house sites, and landscape features (Figure 10). The master plan was completed in 1965 and adopted in 1966. The plan specified rehabilitation of the 1775 historic scene, including, stabilization, limited restoration, and selected reconstruction of period structures and related outbuildings, along with other historic features – stone walls, fences, farm paths, and public ways where appropriate. (CLR 2005: 107; Master Plan 1965)

In 1968, the National Park Service Office of Resource Planning prepared a special study that identified buildings and structures within the park boundary to be retained, removed, or demolished. The report, like the 1965 Master Plan, also recommended that vehicular traffic be eliminated from the Battle Road in the Hartwell area and Fiske Hill, making way for foot traffic only. The blacktopped surface would be removed from these areas. Finally, the study discussed establishment of proposed historic motor trails within the park, which depended on the relocation of Route 2 to an alignment outside of park boundaries. The state transportation secretary declined the hotly contested relocation in 1977. (CLR 2005: 108-109)

The park's first General Management Plan (GMP) was completed in 1989 and approved July 10, 1990. Besides addressing traffic problems, the GMP directed a 'selective restoration of the 18th-century environment [to] provide a flavor of the physical conditions on April 19, 1775 without requiring detailed replication of the entire landscape.' The GMP opposed a proposition to widen Route 2A and supported closing to traffic and restoring sections of the Battle Road to their 18th-century

appearance. (CLR 2005: 110; Administrative History 2010: 255, 264)

Implementation of the GMP goals began in the early 1990s and continues today. In 1992, the park's boundaries were expanded and new land acquired. Construction of the Battle Road Trail began in 1995. The trail, designed by Carol R. Johnson Associates, includes segments of the historic Battle Road closed to automobile traffic. Additional landscape development included orchard and field restoration, removal of non-historic buildings and structures, and construction of visitor parking lots along Route 2A. (CLR 2005: 112; Battle Road Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2007: 84)

Fiske Hill Development, 1959-Present:
When Minute Man NHP was established, Fiske Hill was one of the least developed areas within its boundary. The Bashian's house and barn had been removed just a few years before, and nothing had been built in its place. Twenty-two acres on the western half of the hill was occupied by the Hinds turkey farm, and a handful of 20th-century residences were located on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue (today Old Massachusetts Avenue) and at its junction with Marrett Road. By fortunate circumstances, the land around Fiske Hill was some of the first acquired by the new park. The Fiske house land had been sold by Martin Bashian in 1955, and the new owners did not live on the land and were amenable to selling. The park acquired seventeen acres of the former Fiske farm in 1961. Around that time, the Hinds family was looking to subdivide their land, presumably for housing. The park acted quickly and acquired the property, giving them nearly forty acres of Fiske Hill land. (Zenzen 2010: 83)

Early park planning looked to develop visitor services in Fiske Hill, taking advantage of its location at the eastern end of the park and its proximity to Routes 128 and 2A. That the area comprised the earliest, largest portion of property the park acquired further fueled the development initiative. Plans included selective restoration of the historic resources in the area, including clearing forest or maintaining open areas to emphasize its historic agricultural character, restoration of about one and a half miles of stone walls, and restoration of the extant traces of the Battle Road route. Parking was to be provided by a parking lot at the junction of Marrett Road and Massachusetts Avenue, near the bluff, and a picnic area was to be located near the former turkey farm. A loop trail from the parking lot, over the hill to the Fiske house and Hayward well site, and returning by the Battle Road would give visitors access to both historic and natural features. An information shelter, constructed near the parking lot, provided a visitor contact facility. Completed in 1967, the information shelter had shingled walls to "reflect the use of native materials," giving it a distinctive "Park Service" look and making clear that the area was a national historical park site (Figures 11 and 12). The shelter was later removed. (Zenzen 2010: 116)

The park's desire to move traffic away from the Battle Road and restore portions of it to an appearance closer to that of the 18th century included reconfiguring the roads in Fiske Hill. When Route 128 was constructed in the 1950s, an interchange was built at Marrett Road, redirecting most of the traffic off of Massachusetts Avenue and away from the hill. Traffic was still heavy on Massachusetts Avenue, as this was still the primary route between Concord and the center of Lexington. In the late 1960s, the National Park Service worked to redirect traffic off of Massachusetts Avenue, with the intent of obliterating it and bringing pedestrians along the Battle Road route. This effort resulted in the construction of a new Massachusetts Avenue segment on the south side of Fiske Hill, a reconfigured overpass over Route 128, and substantially reduced traffic along the Battle Road route. However, the old road, now named Old Massachusetts Avenue, was never removed.



Figure 10. Photo of the excavation of the David Fiske II house site in 1968. Route 128 is visible in the background. (MIMA Archives)

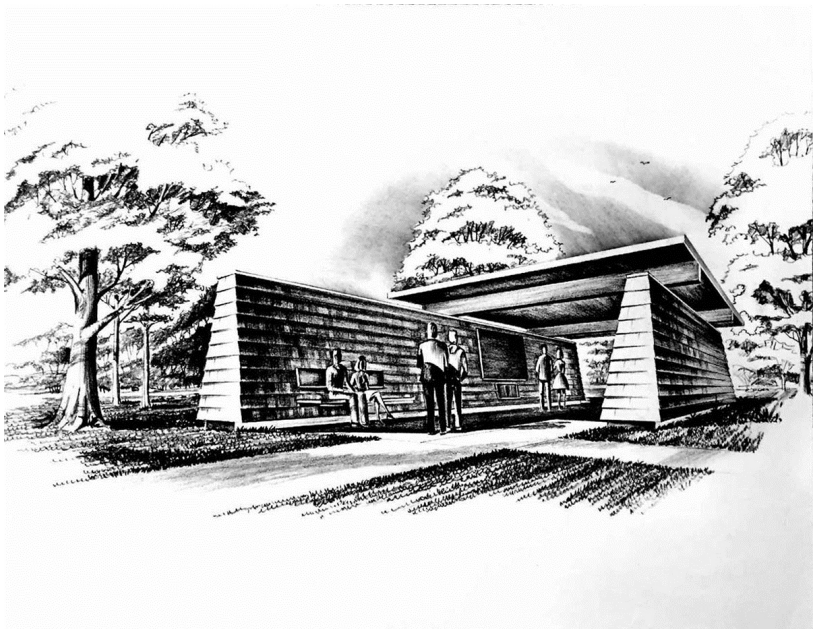


Figure 11. A rendering of the proposed Fiske Hill information shelter. (MIMA Archives)

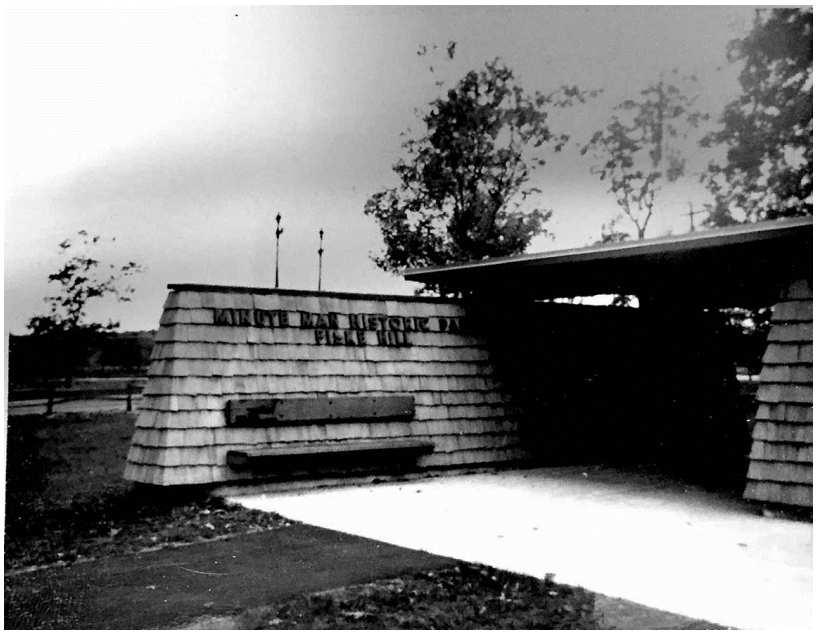


Figure 12. Photo of the Fiske Hill information shelter, circa 1967. (MIMA Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Outbuilding	Barn	Yes	No	No
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Interpretive Trail	No	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Woodlot/Forest (Managed)	Woodlot/Forest (Managed)	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The park grounds are open from sunrise to sunset. Property beneath the electrical transmission lines on the northwest corner of the component landscape is privately held and has no public access.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

In 1996, a research report for the National Park Service Ethnographic Program entitled “In Praise of Sweet Corn: Contemporary Farming at Minute Man National Historical Park” was completed by Steven Parish.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

As part of the Battle Road cultural landscape, the Fiske Hill component landscape is significant for its association with the events of April 19, 1775 and the start of the Revolutionary War, for the commemoration of those events, and for its association with colonial and American agriculture from 1635 through the early 20th century. Through the landscape's long period of significance, covering 324 years from 1635 to 1959, it has changed considerably, from the first colonial farms and woodlands to a suburban thoroughfare with residential houses. The changes, however, have generally been gradual, with extended periods of continuity and stasis. Long periods of ownership of houses and farmland over multiple generations, stable agricultural land use, and limited resources available for drastic changes have ensured that the landscape evolved slowly to meet modern needs while retaining its rural, agricultural character. Recent efforts by the park have reversed much of the non-historic changes to the landscape.

Fiske Hill did not experience the same level of post-historic development as did other segments of the Battle Road. The Fiske property divided in the late 18th century following Benjamin Fiske's death, but substantial portions of it remained intact. By the 20th century, the core property containing the Ebenezer Fiske house site and surrounding seventeen acres had been passed through a succession of owners to the Bashian Family, and an adjacent twenty-two acres was owned by the Hinds family. Because of this, the bulk of the land on and around the hill retained its agricultural land use and appearance through the 1950s. Around this core, the land had been divided into smaller residential lots with houses on them.

The most significant non-historic changes to the landscape include the loss of historic buildings, the construction of modern highways through and near the site, and the reforestation of former agricultural land. No historic structures remain today, although the foundations of some of the structures are still present, including the foundation and cellar hole of the David Fiske II house and the Ebenezer Fiske/Bashian house, as well as the Bashian barn. Other extant historic features include stone walls, wells, and the stone Hayward well monument. Modern highways have sliced up the former Fiske land and altered its character. Old Massachusetts Avenue roughly follows the Battle Road route to the north of Fiske Hill, while the new Massachusetts Avenue, which passes to the south of Fiske Hill, separates the current core of the property from former Fiske property to the south. Although it is outside of the park boundary, the construction of Route 128 in the 1950s and it subsequent expansions have impacted the setting and feeling of the site. Finally, with the decline of agricultural use following the property's acquisition by the park, much of the former open pastures, meadows, and fields have reverted to forest. The impact of this is lessened somewhat by the fact that the Fiske Hill area historically contained more woodland than many surrounding farms.

The physical integrity of the landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the historic period with existing conditions. The landscape characteristics evaluated for Fiske Hill include Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Land Use, Vegetation, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Views and Vistas, Small-Scale Features, and Archeological Sites. Of these, Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Circulation, Small-Scale Features, and Archeological Sites contain features or landscape patterns that contribute to the integrity of the Fiske Hill component landscape and to the Battle Road parent landscape.

INTEGRITY

Although elements of the Fiske Hill landscape have changed since the historic period, several of the important historic relationships that convey the site's significance remain. Furthermore, Fiske Hill represents an integral part of the Battle Road landscape, helping to complete the story of the British retreat from Concord, as well as the evolution of the agricultural landscape from the 17th to the 20th century. Through the aggregate contribution of its extant historic features and its important landscape patterns, Fiske Hill retains the integrity aspects of location, association, and setting.

Location:
The location of Fiske Hill and its resources is of primary importance in establishing the site's historical integrity. Significant events during the battle in 1775, including fighting in which Major Pitcairn was unhorsed and his

horse and pistols captured by colonists, and the incident in which James Hayward and a British soldier exchanged fatal shots, occurred within the Fiske Hill area. At the Fiske house, Rebecca Fiske recalled coming home to find a dead British soldier on her doorstep and three wounded soldiers in her front room. Two of these, another British soldier and James Hayward, did not survive, while the third, an Irish youth, did.

The marked location of the Ebenezer Fisk house foundation and its obvious relationship to the Battle Road trace strongly convey the historic relationship between the house and the road and how it led to the events that transpired there. This relationship is strengthened by the extant stone walls that mark the edges of the road right-of-way. With these extant features it is easy to imagine the apparition of the house as the British column passed along the road and the temptation it presented to enter and pillage its contents. While the location of the Ebenezer Fiske house site has been contested in the past, the current consensus is that it is correctly marked today.

Although it is not visibly recorded, the location of the David Fiske II house site, together with the extant stone walls, Ebenezer Fiske house site, and Battle Road trace, helps elucidate the overall organization of the Fiske farm and how it evolved from the 17th century onward. Furthermore, the relationship of these to the natural features of the site, including the hill itself, flat areas suitable for cultivation, and low areas and water sources, help provide important context for understanding the layout and function of the farm.

Association:
Association is the direct connection between a property and its important historic events. Fiske Hill is featured prominently in the telling of the day's fateful events. Both the story of the capture of Major Pitcairn's horse and the Hayward well incident did much to fuel the colonists' patriotic pride and to bolster their morale during the war and beyond. Today, the presence of the road trace, stone walls, and house foundation, together with their relationship to the larger Battle Road landscape, conveys the significance of the events and the site's connection to them.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a property and the general character of the place. During the historic period, the Fiske farm was set among other agricultural properties, with low building density, large amounts of open field, meadow, and pasture land, and undeveloped woodland. The Fiske property was located on the edge of Lexington, a mile and a half from the center of the town.

Today, much of the agricultural land has either reverted to forest or has been converted to residential subdivisions. Highways, including Route 2A and Route 128, carry large amounts of traffic around and through the area, serving Boston and its metropolitan area. Hanscom Air Force Base/Hanscom Field, a joint-use military base/civil airport adjoining the north boundary of the Battle Road Unit, contributes noise, congestion, and development pressures to the area. Despite these changes, Fiske Hill and the rest of the Battle Road unit retain a predominantly rural and agricultural character. Many of the fields have either been retained or restored through recent clearing, and much of the non-historic development within the park boundary has been reversed. This character within the park, and the relatively low-density development immediately around the park, mitigate the negative impacts of the landscape's setting.

Feeling:
Feeling is the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time resulting from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey a property's historic character. Throughout the historic period, Fiske Hill presented an agricultural character, with open pastures spreading over the hillsides divided by stone walls and interspersed with patches of woodland. In the open landscape, the infrequent clusters of houses and farm buildings would have been conspicuous. The road was narrow, despite its wide right-of-way, and surfaced with dirt, even into the middle of the 20th century.

Today, Fiske Hill retains a number of historic features that together create a sense of history and a feeling of past time. However, the overall feeling of the Fiske Hill area has changed significantly since the historic period. Much of the area of the former pastures and fields have reverted to forest, creating a closed, wooded character throughout most of the site. The roads wind through the forest, and views into the adjacent lands are obscured by dense vegetation. The trails that pass through the densely wooded areas have a character of nature trails rather than farm paths. This diminishment of the historic feeling is exacerbated by the lack of extant structures and the presence traffic noise from Route 128 and other roads.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. As a rural, vernacular landscape, Fiske Hill was not the product of conscious design or a coordinated plan. The historic homes were constructed by their owners or by local tradesmen in the vernacular style common to their area and time. Roads followed the easiest lines between destinations, accommodating for terrain. Property lines followed natural features, changes in vegetation or soil moisture, or existing roads, and lots were distributed in smaller portions to provide land to each farmer across a variety of farm uses, such as tillage, pasture, meadow, and woodlot. The result was an irregular arrangement of lots of varying size and shape, houses that were not aligned to roads or property lines, and roads that curved gently through the landscape.

Some of these characteristics are visible today in the marked outline of the Fiske house foundation, the historic stone walls, and the Battle Road trace. However, the overall layout and spatial relationships, functional and aesthetic design details, and cultural traditions once evident in the architectural styles are no longer evident due to the lack of extant features and the increase of forested land.

Materials and Workmanship:
Materials are the physical features that were combined or deposited during the period of significance in a particular pattern or configuration to give form to the property. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the specified historic period of significance. Both of these aspects of integrity rely on the presence of historic features that continue to display the characteristics that they did during the historic period. At Fiske Hill, the majority of the built features present during the historic period are no longer extant, and those that are, including the stone walls and the stone foundations, have been altered, repaired, and rebuilt to the degree that their original workmanship is no longer evident. The only vegetation on the site clearly identifiable as present during the historic period are a number of evergreen trees at the Fiske house site that date from either the late 19th or early 20th century.

Landscape Characteristic: **Natural Systems and Features**

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Fiske Hill is the highest point within the present Battle Road Unit of Minute Man NHP. Less than a half mile wide, Fiske Hill rises 100 feet above the surrounding land to an elevation of 300 feet above sea level. Formed during the last advance and retreat of glaciers between 15,000 and 8,000 years ago, the hill and the rolling terrain around it is composed of coarse glacial till and shallow bedrock, with abundant outcrops of rock. Unlike many portions of the Battle Road unit, Fiske Hill has little wetland area around it.

When the first settlers arrived, the area of Fiske Hill was predominantly covered in forests with oak, beech, pine, and hemlock. Pollen analysis of samples taken at the David Fiske II house site indicate that the beech trees were selectively cleared first, followed by oak, hemlock, and pine. The cleared lands were colonized by grasses, as well as alders and wildflowers, and were likely used primarily for grazing. Clearing of land continued from initial settlement in the mid-17th century to the end of the 18th century, when an estimated 80-90% of New England's Forests had been cleared.

The uneven ground and hill slopes, rocky soil and shallow bedrock, and lack of lowland and wetland areas likely meant that the Fiske farm was predominantly pastureland. The farm contained gardens and meadows where they would grow, but it appears that the primary product of the farm was livestock. Apple orchards, used to produce cider, grew reasonably well on the slopes of the hill, and the farm would likely have had one or two small orchards for personal use. The Fiske Hill area contained more uncleared woodland than many of the surrounding farms, particularly on the north side of the Battle Road.

Throughout the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, the land of Fiske Hill continued to be utilized for agriculture. Aerial imagery from the 1950s shows that, while some portions of the land, particularly on the steeper slopes of the hill itself, had reforested, much of the Fiske Hill area was still under cultivation. After the park acquired the land, however, the forests quickly reestablished themselves, and today, only a fraction of the historically open area remains, now maintained as open meadow by periodic mowing (Figures 13 and 14).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Fiske Hill	174070	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 13. View of the forest near the Ebenezer Fiske house site in 2014. Much of the area of Fiske Hill is covered in dense forest. (OCLP)



Figure 14. View of the open meadow on the south side of Fiske Hill in 2014. Meadows on Fiske Hill are kept open by periodic mowing. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition:
The Fiske farm was established in the mid-17th century on and around Fiske Hill. The farm was composed of an assemblage of smaller parcels, some contiguous and some not. These parcels changed possession periodically as they were bought, sold, gifted, and inherited, both within and outside of the family, but the majority of the land around the hill remained in Fiske ownership until the early 19th century.

The Fiske farm contained at least three different homesteads at various points during its history. The first was David Fiske II's house located on the southeast slope of the hill, about 400 feet south of the Concord Road. The second, built by David Fiske III but known for his son Ebenezer Fiske, was located adjacent to the road almost due north of the first homestead. The third house, built by Jonathan Fiske and lived in by Ebenezer Fiske before he sold it outside of the family in 1729, was built about 600 feet east of the second house, a location that is today outside of the park boundary. These three houses were only together on the hill at the same time for a period of ten to twenty years, between the construction of the Jonathan Fiske house in 1700 and the destruction of the David Fiske II house between 1710 and 1721.

Much about the historic spatial organization of the Ebenezer Fiske homestead is unknown. However, a combination of the scant archeological evidence and descriptions of the homestead contained in deeds and probate records, a speculative plan can be developed for the house and other buildings as they were in 1775. According to the inventory of the property in 1885 when Benjamin Fiske died and the estate was divided between his widow and his underage son, the homestead included a house and barn, cow yard, hog house, corn shed, a number of small gardens, and a quarter-acre stock yard. These were located on the south side of the Concord Road at its intersection with Wood Street. On the north side of the Concord Road were two enclosed gardens, one of which may have been an orchard. South and west of the house were pastures, and to the east was a piece of land referred to as the "training field." Other portions of the hill were covered primarily in pasture and woodland, with individual fields and property lines delineated by stone walls.

After the property passed out of Fiske family ownership, the composition of the homestead changed considerably. The house was replaced in 1852 and the barn was replaced by 1872. Other more temporary structures, such as the hog house and gardens, were likely removed, replaced, or altered at some point during that period. By the time the park acquired the property in 1961, both the 1852 house and 1872 barn were gone, leaving only their foundations. No other structural elements of the farm remained.

The spatial qualities of the land around the homestead changed during the 19th and 20th centuries as the open pastures and fields reverted to woodland. Portions of the hill, primarily on the western slope, remained open, utilized by the Pine Hill farm for their turkey operations.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Today, the historic spatial organization of the Fiske farm is difficult to perceive based on visible features. The loss of structures, the continued encroachment of woodland, and the construction of modern roads have obscured the spatial relationships that might convey the layout and operation of the farm. Some features remain, however, and provide key spatial information to an observer. Primary among these are the stone walls that continue to mark the edges of the Concord Road (Battle Road) and the edges of some of the fields and property lines. The marked outline of the Ebenezer Fiske house is essential to the understanding of its relationship to the road and the role it played in the events of 1775.

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition:
During the historic period, the land on and around Fiske Hill was used for agricultural and domestic purposes. Homesteads consisted of a dwelling house, a barn, outbuildings for livestock or storage, gardens, orchards, wells, and other function elements for close domestic use. Surrounding this core were pastures, meadows, tillage fields, orchards, and woodlots. On Fiske Hill, much of the land was used as pasture, in which livestock were allowed to graze during the snow-free seasons. Early deeds and other documents made little mention of plow land or tillage, describing most of the parcels as pasture, meadow, woodlots, or “close gardens,” which were small, enclosed gardens close to the house. Likely due to the rocky, uneven terrain, this suggests that the bulk of the Fiske family operations were focused on the raising of livestock, supplemented by small vegetable gardens and orchards.

Agricultural use continued through the 19th century, although the total land that was cultivated generally decreased, and much of the pasture and meadow land reverted to woodland. By the 20th century, a small number of residential lots were developed with single-family homes. The largest agricultural operation at that time was the Pine Hill turkey farm on the west side of Fiske Hill.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Much of the land on Fiske Hill was acquired shortly after the creation of the park in 1959. By then the Bashian house had been removed and no one was living on the former Fiske house lot. The park acquired the turkey farm land in 1965 and removed the farm structures. Over time, the remaining parcels were acquired by the park and residential and other uses were stopped. Today, the only land uses within the Fiske Hill area are related to park visitor experience, including passive recreation, interpretation, hiking and biking, and vehicle parking. Aside from trails and parking lots, there are no visitor services in the area.

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition:
Historically, the vegetation of Fiske Hill was dominated by native forest, pasture and meadow grasses, and cultivated crops. Due to the steep and rocky nature of the land of Fiske Hill, good tillage land was limited, likely confined to a few gardens around the houses where vegetables were grown. Other important crops were grains (corn and rye), and apple and pear orchards that supplied juice for cider. It is unknown to what extent these crops were present on Fiske Hill, as they were rarely mentioned in deeds and other documents.

In addition to agricultural vegetation, homestead areas were often adorned with ornamental vegetation and shade trees. In Rebecca Fiske's account of the 1775 battle, she states that when she returned home she found her "garden walls thrown down – my flowers trampled upon – earth and herbage covered with the marks of hurried footsteps." There is no other information about the types of flowers or herbage.

Late 19th century photographs of the house show it surrounded by grassy lawns and shade and ornamental trees, with what appears to be an orchard south of the house. This would be consistent with typical rural residential vegetation of the period. By the mid-20th century, the house was in disrepair and the yard was overgrown with weeds, although some evidence of plowing or garden rows is visible, suggesting at least a portion of the land was still being cultivated. It is unknown whether any of the orchard trees remained at this time.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Today, the vegetation of Fiske Hill is dominated by second-growth forest, primarily of deciduous species, but with a substantial number of pine trees. Portions of the hill have been maintained as meadow with periodic mowing, and these are dominated by native and non-native grasses and forbs. No agricultural fields or cultivated crops remain within the Fiske Hill area.

The park has established three areas with crabapple trees in grid formations to resemble fruit orchards. The first area is south of the Ebenezer Fiske house site, containing about forty trees in an oblique grid. The grid is incomplete with several empty spaces and some standing dead trees. Few of the trees appear to be in good condition (Figure 15). The second orchard, located along the northeast side of Route 2A near the Fiske Hill parking area, consists of three or four rows of trees running parallel to the road. Like the Fiske house site, many of these trees are dead or in poor condition. The third orchard comprises a few trees on the north side of the road adjacent to the bluff.

Aside from the forested areas, open meadows, and orchards, the vegetation at Fiske Hill is primarily composed of deciduous trees and mowed lawn. Vegetation around the Fiske House site includes remnants of the residential vegetation associated with the Bashian house, including large evergreen trees and hardwoods (Figure 16).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Crabapple Orchard	174072	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 15. View of the orchard of crabapple trees west of the Ebenezer Fiske house site in 2014. Many of the trees are in poor condition. (OCLP)



Figure 16. View of the Ebenezer Fiske house site showing remnant vegetation associated with the Bashian house, 2014. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition:
The primary circulation feature during the historic period was the long highway between Concord and Boston, variously called the Country Road, the County Road, or the Bay Road, and after the beginning of the 19th century, North Great Road. The road was often referred to locally by the destination from that point. Thus, as it traveled westward from Lexington to Concord in the vicinity of Fiske Hill, it was called the road to Concord or the Concord Road. Later it would often be referred to as Battle Road for the events of 1775.

At Fiske Hill, the Battle Road curved around the north face of the hill and passed along the south side of the rocky escarpment called "the bluff." The road right-of-way originally varied along this length from four rods (66 feet) at the Fiske house, to six rods (99 feet) on the north portion of the hill, to ten rods (165 feet) at the bluff. The wide right-of-way provided plenty of room to drive livestock and allowed the travel way to shift as road conditions dictated. Over time, the right of way was narrowed, as land was sold to abutting land owners to fund road improvements. In 1773, the town of Lexington purchased land from Ebenezer and Benjamin Fiske on the north side of the road, indicating that the road shifted northward slightly at that time. Other improvements to the road at Fiske Hill primarily involved grading to reduce the strenuous climb over the hill.

On the east side of Fiske Hill, across from the Ebenezer Fiske house, the Concord Road intersected Wood Road, also called Clay Road, which led north to Bedford. Other circulation features within the Fiske Hill area would have included footpaths and cart paths to access various parts of the farm. In 1898, Reverend H.M. Houghton, who lived in the Thaddeus Reed house just east of the Ebenezer Fiske house as a boy, recalled a footpath that traversed the north side of the hill south of the Concord Road. There also must have been a road or cart path to David Fiske II's house, as it was some distance from the road, although the location of this road is not recorded.

In the 20th century, the roads were improved to accommodate travel by automobile. The section of the Battle Road around Fiske Hill was realigned in 1907, widening it in several places. This involved the removal of several sections of stone walls and a portion of the bluff, and the regrading of portions of the hill. In 1930, the road was realigned again and the county obliterated much of the pre-1907 alignment and the 1907 realignment. The new road was aligned primarily south of the old bed.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In the 1960s, continued efforts by the park to relocate Route 2A and move traffic away from Battle Road led to the construction of a new Massachusetts Avenue that passed south of Fiske Hill and a relocated overpass over Route 128. The plan was to close the previous section of Massachusetts Avenue, obliterate the road bed, and construct a pedestrian path along Battle Road. The old road was never removed, however, and today it remains as Old Massachusetts Avenue, which continues to provide access to a number of houses north of Fiske Hill.

In the late 1960s, as the park was looking to develop the Fiske Hill area further, a new parking lot was constructed west of the hill near the bluff. A foot trail was constructed that stretched from the parking lot, over the hill and through the large field, to the Ebenezer Fiske house site. With a trail that followed the Battle Road route back to the parking lot, this provided a pedestrian loop where visitors could explore the historic resources of Fiske Hill, as well as the natural features of the wooded site.

The Battle Road Trail, begun in 1995, partially follows the original Battle Road route at the bluff and along the north side of the hill, ending at the Ebenezer Fiske house site. A portion of the current Old Massachusetts Avenue passes over the historic Battle Road roadbed, however, and in this portion the Battle Road Trail deviates from the original alignment. Historic stone walls remain along the trail, marking the historic edges of the road right-of-way. The historic Battle Road right-of-way is a contributing circulation feature, however the Battle Road Trail itself is non-contributing.

Today, vehicular circulation is provided by Old Massachusetts Avenue, which provides access to two parking areas, one near the bluff and the other across from the Ebenezer Fiske house site (Figure 17). The loop trail, half of which is comprised of the Battle Road Trail, still provides the primary pedestrian access through the site (Figures 18 and 19). Within the Fiske Hill area, nearly eighty percent of the Battle Road Trail follows the original alignment of the Battle Road, providing visitors with important spatial context for the events of 1775. Portions of the Battle Road alignment that are not incorporated into the Battle Road Trail are still discernable (Figure 20).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Old Massachusetts Avenue (Battle Road)	174080	Contributing	000919				No
Battle Road Trail	174076	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Loop Trail	174074	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Modern Vehicular Roads and Parking Lots	174078	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 17. View of Old Massachusetts Avenue as it passes along the north side of Fiske Hill, 2014. (OCLP)



Figure 18. View of the Battle Road Trail as it crosses Old Massachusetts Avenue just east of the Ebenezer Fiske house site, showing the typical features associated with the trail, 2014. (OCLP)



Figure 19. View of the foot trail that passes over Fiske Hill, 2014. (OCLP)

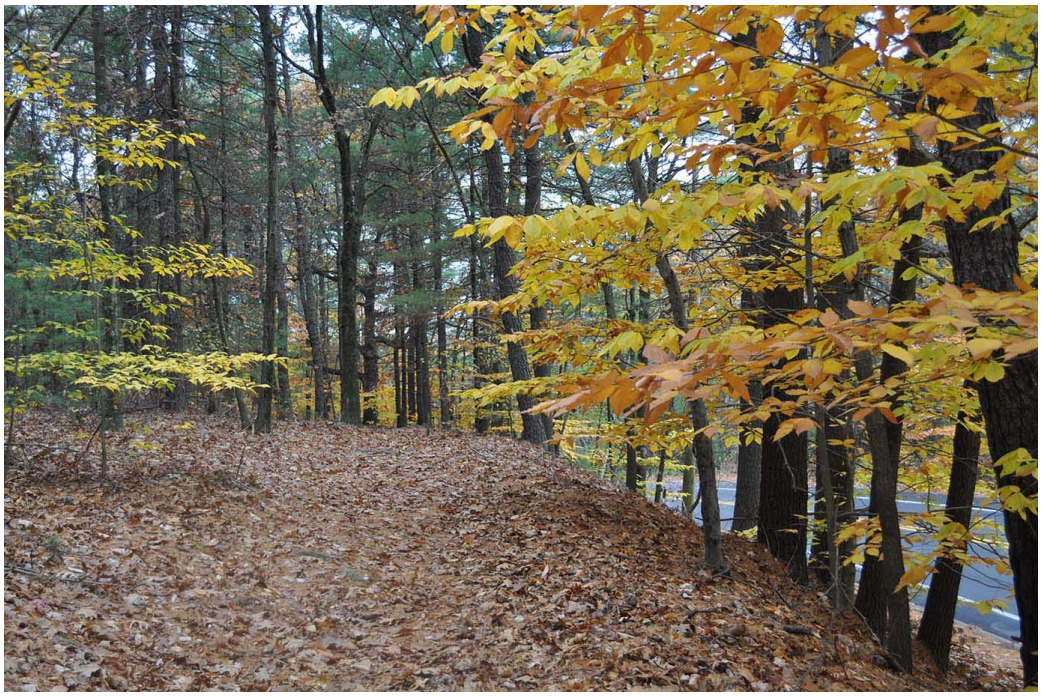


Figure 20. View of the Battle Road trace on the south side of Old Massachusetts Avenue, 2014. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition:
The chronology, composition, and layout of the buildings and structures on Fiske Hill during the historic period have been the subject of much historical and archeological research, and the various analyses and conclusions have been indeterminate and often contradictory. However, from the historical record and archeological evidence, a reasonable description of the houses and other structures may be developed.

The first house on Fiske Hill was built by David Fiske II in about 1647, the year his first child was born and the first year he appears in the Cambridge records. The location of this house was identified by David Snow in 1969, about 420 feet south of the Ebenezer Fiske house foundation and on the south side of today's Massachusetts Avenue. The foundation consists of three-foot-high cellar walls, twelve feet wide and eighteen feet long. The cellar hole is filled with wall stones and fireplace/hearth stones and bricks, and a large amount of ash indicates that the house may have burned. David Fiske II appears to have been living in the house when he died in 1710, based on the probate inventory which includes descriptions of the house and furnishings. Eleven years later, when his will was settled, the house is referred to in the past tense, indicating that it was removed or destroyed during the intervening years. In addition to the house, the homestead would likely have contained a barn and possibly other outbuildings, but neither descriptions nor archeological traces of these have been located. (D. Snow 1969a)

The second house to be built on Fiske Hill was that of David Fiske III, who likely established his own homestead in 1674 when he married. This is the house that he left to Ebenezer Fiske when he died in 1729 and in which Ebenezer was living in 1775 during the battle. A third house was built by Jonathan Fiske, Ebenezer's brother, about 600 feet east of David Fiske III's house. This land was presumably given to Jonathan by his father-in-law William Reed in about 1700. Jonathan sold the house to his father in 1712, who gave it to Ebenezer in 1715. Ebenezer lived in this house from then until his father's death in 1729, at which point it passed out of the family. This house, often

referred to as the Thaddeus Reed house for the Lexington Militia soldier who owned it in 1775, was located on land outside of the current park boundary. (D. Snow 1969b)

The location of the house that David Fiske III built (Ebenezer Fiske house) has been disputed by a number of archeological reports. Both David Snow and Cordelia Snow, in separate investigations undertaken in the 1960s, concluded that the currently marked location of the house is incorrect, although they do not agree on where the house was located. The uncertainty that the location of the house is correctly marked stems primarily from contradictions between the orientation of what is believed to be the original foundation (north-south) and the orientation of the house implied by the division of the property on Benjamin Fiske's death (east-west), and on the small number of 18th-century artifacts found at the site. Since that time, however, the general consensus is that the location of the house is correctly marked. (ACMP 1987)

The Ebenezer Fiske House was removed or substantially altered in 1852 by Daniel Chamberlain, who owned the property from 1851 to 1857. Tax records for that year, which deduct for the "deduct for old house and out building" and "add for new house" suggest that the old house was completely replaced by the new one. Current belief is that the new house was built on the enlarged foundation of the old house. The house was renovated in 1863 by Samuel Dudley, who also constructed a new barn on the west side of the house in 1872, the foundation of which, referred to as the Bashian Barn foundation, remains today. The Ebenezer Fiske house was removed by Martin Bashian in 1955, not long before the property was acquired by the NPS in 1961.

Other buildings were present within the Fiske Hill site during the period of significance included the Pine Hill Turkey Farm, located on the west slope of the hill during the first half of the 20th century. The farm consisted of a number of buildings, including a house, barns, and poultry houses. The farm was acquired by the park in 1965 and the buildings were removed.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The Fiske Hill land was some of the first obtained by the park in the 1960s. At that time, the Bashian house and barn had been dismantled, but there were a number of buildings within the area, including the turkey farm and about nine residences located north of Old Massachusetts Avenue and at the junction of Old Massachusetts Avenue and Route 2A. As these were not related to the Revolutionary War theme of the park and therefore not historic, all of these buildings were removed as soon as the park could acquire them. This left no remaining structures within the Fiske Hill area. The park saw this as an opportunity to place visitor services there and planned a visitor center to be located near the Route 2A junction. Although a full-service visitor center was never constructed, the park did build a small visitor information structure in the 1970s. This structure was removed in the 1990s.

Today there are no standing structures within the Fiske Hill area. The Ebenezer Fiske house foundation is marked by an outline of piled stones and the stone entrance step (Figure 21). The stone foundation of the Bashian barn is also visible north of the Fiske house site (Figure 22). The David Fiske house site has been covered with earth and is not visibly marked. Both the Fiske house foundation and the Bashian barn foundations are contributing structures of the Fiske Hill cultural landscape.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation	174082	Contributing	000923		Location	64272	Yes
Bashian Barn Foundation	174084	Contributing	040247		Location	64275	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 21. View of the Ebenezer Fiske house site showing the outlined foundation and the marker stone, 2014. (OCLP)



Figure 22. View of the Bashian barn foundation at the Ebenezer Fiske house site, 2014. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition:
The Fiske Hill area contained more wooded lots than much of the surrounding agricultural area. Much of the land on the north side of the Concord Road was wooded, as were portions of the hill on the south side of the Battle Road. Nonetheless, the open pastures and meadows created a relatively open character and provided long views through the countryside.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The majority of the historically open areas on Fiske Hill have reverted to forest, especially along the Battle Road trail and on Old Massachusetts Avenue. This has created an enclosed character with no long views. Portions of the hill have been maintained as open field, and continue to provide views; the largest of these is accessible by the Fiske Hill trail and is not visible from the road or from the Battle Road trail.

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition:
While wood fences were initially used to demark property and prevent the movement of livestock, stone walls were eventually constructed throughout the Battle Road Unit and Fiske Hill area. When trees were cleared to make fields, the insulating value of the topsoil was lost and stones were pushed to the surface, forcing farmers to pile the stones in the middle of fields and pastures. Soon, the farmers moved the stones to the edges of existing wood fences, forming tossed walls. Stone walls both confined livestock and protected orchards and crops from livestock, and also marked property boundaries. During the Battle of Lexington and Concord, militia and minute men used stone walls, boulders, and other objects as cover from British fire. After the war, as farming evolved and property uses changed over the years, stone walls were removed to enlarge fields and, later, to construct new house foundations. During the 20th century, before park operations were established in the area, many stones along the road were removed by people to be utilized in their own yards in other locations.

Stone walls were located throughout the Fiske Hill area, marking the edges of the Battle Road right-of-way as it wound over the north side of the hill and marking the edges of the larger pastures on and around the hill. Deeds describe at least two “close gardens,” small gardens enclosed with stone walls, on the north side of the road opposite the Ebenezer Fiske House.

In addition to the stone walls, archeological work at the Fiske house site has uncovered several other stone features, including several wells, a cistern, stone foundations, and various cobble drives and walks. To date, five wells have been located within the Fiske Hill area, three of which are in the immediate proximity to the house site. Archeological evidence indicates that all three of these wells date from the 19th century. The location of the well where the “Hayward well” incident occurred in 1775, as well as any other 18th century wells, has not been determined.

In 1885, a stone tablet was placed at the Fiske house site to mark the location of what was thought to be the Hayward well. Originally the tablet was mounted flush within a stone wall, similar to other monument tablets in the park. On the tablet was inscribed:
AT THIS WELL/APRIL 19 1775/JAMES HAYWARD OF ACTON/MET A BRITISH SOLDIER/WHO RAISING HIS GUN SAID/YOU ARE A DEAD MAN/AND SO ARE YOU REPLIED HAYWARD/BOTH FIRED, THE SOLDIER/WAS INSTANTLY KILLED/& HAYWARD MORTALLY WOUNDED

There is little direct evidence of what other small-scale features might have been present during the

historic period, but they would likely have been a mix of impermanent utilitarian items associated with the agricultural and domestic uses.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
When the park acquired the Fiske Hill property in the 1960s, stone walls dating as far back as the 17th century crossed the land. Many of these were in poor condition, and portions had been removed or altered, both in the ongoing management of the farms through the historic period and in the construction of modern roads and houses. Nonetheless, the walls provided valuable information about the location of the historic road and the boundaries of fields and parcels. An estimated one and a half miles of wall needed repair or restoration. Today, the stone walls mark the historic bounds of the Battle Road right-of-way, although portions of the wall are missing where Old Massachusetts Avenue crosses it. Other walls mark former field locations on the hill.

Two of the historic wells are marked today with above-ground stones. One, located near the Battle Road and near the Hayward well monument, has traditionally been believed to be the location of the Hayward well incident, although archeological evidence and the location of the well indicate that this is unlikely. The second visible well remnant is located west of the former house foundation. The Hayward well tablet remains, but is now placed on a pile of stones in front of the wall rather than mounted within the stone wall (Figures 23 and 24).

Numerous non-contributing small-scale features are located throughout the site, most related either to visitor services and interpretation or to vehicular travel through the site. These include an engraved boulder marker indicating the location of the Ebenezer Fiske house placed on its eastern edge; a monument composed of a brass plaque mounted in a boulder reading “Near Here Is Buried A British Solder, April 19, 1775;” stone obelisk markers indicating the points where the Battle Road route crosses current roads; stone obelisk mile markers for Battle Road indicating the miles from Boston; and benches, footbridges, waysides, and similar landscape features (Figure 25).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Hayward Well Monument	174088	Contributing	040264		Location	64276	Yes
Fiske Hill Well #1	174086	Contributing	006541				No
Fiske Hill Well #2	174090	Contributing					No
System of Stone Walls [Ebenezer Fiske Property]	174092	Contributing	040186		Asset	35044	Yes
System of Stone Walls [David Fiske Property]	174094	Contributing	040185		Asset	35045	Yes
System of Stone Walls [Fiske Hill]	174096	Contributing	040184		Asset	35047	Yes
System of Stone Walls [Battle Road Walls]	174098	Contributing	040220				No
Ebenezer Fiske House Marker	174100	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Monument to British Soldier	174102	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Waysides and Informational Sign	174104	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Road Signs and Traffic Features	174106	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

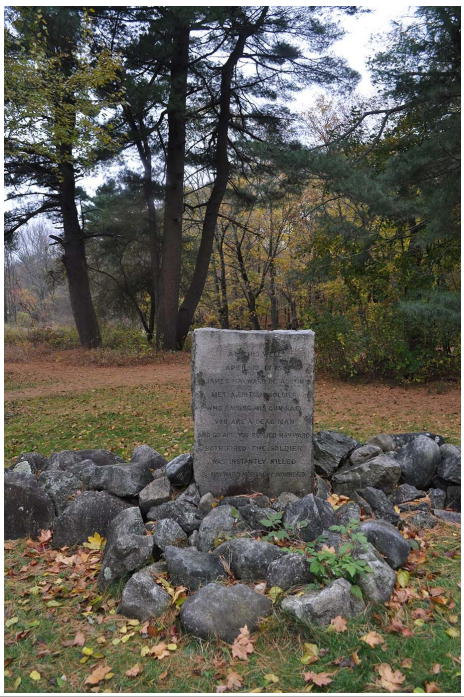


Figure 23. View of the Hayward well monument, 2014. (OCLP)



Figure 24. One of the wells at the Ebenezer Fiske house site, 2014. (OCLP)



Figure 25. View of the monument to fallen British Soldiers near the Ebenezer Fiske house site, 2014. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic:

Archeological Sites

Historic and Existing Conditions:
With the scarcity of extant, above-ground historic features at Fiske Hill, archeological resources are essential to understanding the spatial and functional aspects of the site. Known archeological sites or structure ruins include the David Fiske II house site, the Ebenezer Fiske house foundation, the Bashian Barn foundation, five wells, and portions of the Battle Road roadbed. In addition to these, a number of other archeological resources are known or presumed to be buried within the site, but have yet to be located. Continued archeological work will help complete the understanding of the site layout and provide more definitive answers to questions of resource location.

Archeological investigations began in the 1960s, when three separate excavations were undertaken by Vincent P. Foley in 1963 and 1964, Leland J. Abel in 1965, and David Snow in 1968. A fourth study, conducted by Cordelia Snow in 1969, did not perform any new excavations, but analyzed the previous studies and the artifacts they uncovered, combining their work with historic documentation. The primary goal of all of these studies was to establish the location of the Ebenezer Fiske site and to confirm or refute the traditional belief that the Bashian house was located on the original Fiske foundation. Unfortunately these studies were inconclusive and contradictory. Abel and Foley both believed that the Fiske foundation comprised a portion of the Bashian house foundation, while both David and Cordelia Snow concluded that the Fiske house was located elsewhere. While the issue of the location of the Fiske house has not been settled definitively, subsequent analysis has concluded that the site is probably marked correctly as the eastern half of the Bashian foundation. This was the conclusion of Joyce Lee Malcolm in her 1985 study “The Scene of the Battle, 1775,” and of the Archeological Collections Management Program study in 1987.

The secondary question the archeological studies hoped to answer was the location of the well present in 1775 and featured in the retelling of the “Hayward well incident.” Several of the wells that are currently located were excavated, but no 18th century artifacts were found. This fact, and the locations of the wells, which were further from the house than was typical in the 18th century, indicate that the wells are of 19th century origin. Rebecca Fiske’s account of the incident states that Hayward, located at the well, and the British soldier, located at the doorstep, were about a rod apart, or 16 feet, which was a more typical location of wells of the time. To date, no well has been located at this distance from the house.

The other major archeological site at Fiske Hill is the David Fiske II house site, located south of Massachusetts Avenue. The site was excavated in 1969 by David Snow, who uncovered the cellar hole of the house and retrieved a small number of artifacts from the site. Snow’s conclusions included that the house was abandoned in the early 18th century before it was destroyed, and that it was destroyed and possibly burned at some point shortly after that. These conclusions are consistent with the historical record, which indicates that the house was standing in 1710 when David Fiske died but was abandoned and destroyed before 1721.

Other archeological sites are present throughout the Fiske Hill area, but they have not been systematically excavated.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
David Fiske II House Site	174108	Contributing					No
Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation	174110	Contributing					No
Battle Road/Fiske Hill Site	174112	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic:

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1635-1959), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/16/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/16/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Although many of the fi elds around the site remain wooded, the park hasprioritized eff orts to successfully remove vegetation obscuring historic features.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/24/2015

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

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

The condition assessment is based on the loss of historic character and features that diminish the site’s ability to convey its significance. The primary impact affecting the condition of Fiske Hill is the abundant forest vegetation that covers much of the site. This vegetation alters the spatial organization of the landscape, blocks sight lines and obscures historic views, obscures portions of the Battle Road right of way, and generally diminishes the integrity of the site. Vegetation is growing in a number of contributing historic features, including stone walls, stone well rings, and stone foundations. Vegetation growing within stone structures obscures the structures and may cause damage or deterioration to the structures. The stone structures at Fiske Hill are generally in good condition, including the Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation, Bashian Barn Foundation, and stone walls.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1998

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Automobile Traffic

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: High traffic volumes on the roads in and around Fiske Hill contribute noise and alter the feeling of the historic landscape.

Date Identified: 08/24/2015

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Airplane Traffic

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Hanscom Airfield is located just north of the Battle Road Unit. The airport services private planes and small commuter airlines. Noise from overhead planes and from planes taking off and landing at the airfield compromises the experience of visitors during interpretative programs at the Hartwell Tavern or hiking along the Battle Road Trail.

Date Identified: 08/24/2015

Type of Impact: Release To Succession

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Much of the land around Fiske Hill that was formerly open pasture or agricultural fields has since reverted to forest. The presence of the dense forests alter the sense of spatial organization and diminish the integrity of the site.

Date Identified: 08/24/2015

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Vegetation is growing in a number of contributing historic features, including stone walls, stone well rings, and stone foundations. Vegetation growing within stone structures obscures the structures and may cause damage or deterioration to the structures.

Date Identified: 08/24/2015

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 1989-09-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

According to the 1999 report, “Environmental Assessment for ‘Save Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes’: Minute Man National Historical Park,” the 1989 General Management Plan (GMP) was developed to accomplish the original goals set out by Congress in the park’s enabling legislation. The GMP included the following management goals and objectives to “Protect, rehabilitate, and selectively preserve 18th- and 19th-century buildings for interpretation, visitor use and adaptive use for park purposes.” This goal was to be accomplished through a program of rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance of the Battle Road Unit’s historic structures. An additional goal stated in the GMP was to “Protect and restore the historic scene of April 19, 1775, or the landscape and associated cultural resources in selected areas…” (“Environmental Assessment for ‘Save Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes’” 1999: 2)

The 1999 report also specifically described rehabilitation of historic structures and historic landscapes as the preferred treatment alternative:
“The Preferred Alternative…will provide the greatest balance between rehabilitating the park’s historic structures, rehabilitating their associated landscapes, improving interpretation of these resources and accommodating improved visitor access afforded by the Safe Visitor Access Trail (Battle Road Trail) while protecting the Park’s natural and cultural features and providing a safe experience for visitors. Maintaining the fabric of historic structures and the cultural landscape; conservation of natural and archeological resources; and improving interpretive and education opportunities were the primary issues considered during the development and selection of this alternative. (“Environmental Assessment for ‘Save Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes’” 1999: 4)

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Zenzen, Joan	Bridging the Past: Minute Man NHP Administrative History	2010	NPS			
Weinbaum, Paul	National Register of Historic Places Supplementary Listing Record: Minute Man NHP	2002	NPS			
Wallace, Terrie	National Register of Historic Places Additional Documentation: Minute Man NHP	2006	NPS			
Snow, David H.	The “Left. David Fiske” Site, Minute Man National Historical Park	1969	NPS			
Snow, David H.	Excavations for the Ebenezer Fiske Site: 1968, Lexington, Massachusetts, Minute Man National Historical Park	1969	NPS			
Snow, Cordelia	Rethinking Ebenezer Fiske	1969	NPS (unpublished draft)			
Pierce, Frederick Clifton	Fiske and Fisk Family	1896	Published by the Author			
NPS Archeological Collections Management Program (ACMP)	Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Massachusetts: Volume 1	1987	NPS			

n/a	The Harvard Register, 1827-28	1828	Cambridge: Hilliard and Brown			
n/a	Lexington, Mass, Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths	1898	Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Company			
National Park Service	Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Battle Road, Minute Man NHP	2007	NPS			
Malcolm, Joyce Lee	The Scene of the Battle, 1775: Historic Grounds Report, Minute Man NHP	1985	NPS			
Hudson, Charles	History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County Massachusetts, Volume I	1913	Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company			
Hudson, Charles	History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume II	1868	Boston: Wiggin and Lunt			
Hudson, Charles	History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume I	1868	Boston: Wiggin and Lunt			
Harrington, M. K., et al.	National Register of Historic Places Documentation: Minute Man NHP	2002	NPS			

Dolan, Susan	Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, with Technical Information for Registering Orchards in the National Register of Historic Places	2009	NPS			
Dietrich-Smith, Debora	Cultural Landscape Report for Battle Road Unit, Minute Man National Historical Park	2005	NPS			
Baldwin, Thomas W., ed.	Vital Records of Cambridge Massachusetts, to the Year 1850, Volume 2. Marriages and Deaths	1915	Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society			
Baldwin, Thomas W., ed.	Vital Records of Cambridge Massachusetts, to the Year 1850, Volume 1. Births	1914	Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society			

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
MIMA_Battle-Brooks-Fiske-Hart-JS-Meriam-Nelson-NB-Way_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf		

Source