HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART III

000560
866

Completion Report

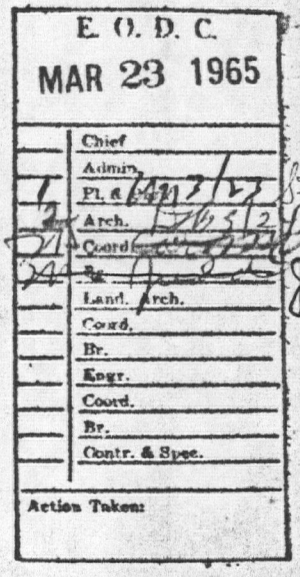
EBENEZER FISKE HOUSE

Stabilization of Cellar & Foundation

MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

by

George L. Wrenn
January 13, 1965



D2621-APC

MAR 22 1965

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Completion Report - Minute Man National Historical Park

We are enclosing the original copy of Completion Report, Forms 10-174 and 10-174A, covering the following completed construction project at Minute Man National Historical Park:

Account Number	Project Title
B-10	Stabilization of the cellar and foundation of the Ebenezer Fiske House

George A. Palmer

Enclosure

cc: ✓ Chief, EODC w/copy encl.
Supt., Minute Man National Historical Park

EFCMonteleone/phn

General
Daily
Area
Program Coordination

000560
6

NARRATIVE

Excavation of the pre-Revolutionary Ebenezer Fiske House foundation walls began during the summer of 1963. (Illustration No. 1) Contract Archeologist Vincent Foley first cleared the site of undesirable vegetation and debris. As work progressed, a cellar became discernable with the exposure of buried stones and ledge. (Illustration Nos. 2 and 3) Mortar was spread across the top of the foundation walls as weather-proofing, and after a section of the southeast wall collapsed, buttresses of 2" x 4" framework were erected. (Illustration Nos. 4 and 5) With completion of the archeological work, a more effective temporary stabilization was undertaken by the Park maintenance staff with the use of plywood sheets to keep the stonework in place against the pressures of rain washes and retained earth.

Much time was devoted to the study of methods by which rehabilitation could take place without destroying the appearance of the dry wall construction. In September, 1964 permanent stabilization and partial restoration were accomplished by rebuilding the collapsed sections of foundation wall and bonding the stonework with mortar which would not be exposed to view. Mason Tony Della Monica, with his helper, reconstructed the necessary masonry work, removed the weatherproofing cap, and relaid the top stones in mortar. The existing stonework was flushed clean with

water and the voids then filled with a mixture of 4 parts sand, 1 part cement, and 1 part lime. Exhibit Specialists, Harry Martin and Warren Dungan used a Vita mortar gun for this purpose. A nozzel designed by them perfected the operation, allowing free flow penetration of the mortar deep into the dry wall. The new portions of wall blend very well with the existing work and the character of dry wall construction has been preserved. (Illustration No. 6, compare with No. 5)

In the course of work, all plumbing pipes were removed with the exception of an old drain line (7"ID) under the eastern end of the southeast wall. This pipe may be used as a future drain line sleeve. (Illustration No. 2)

In the Administrative Data Section of the Historic Structures Report, Part 1, it was proposed to surround the cellar with a guard rail and expose the foundation in its correct dimensions. However, the Regional Director's office considered it advisable to backfill the cellar to within one foot of the top of the foundation wall after it had been stabilized. Bids were received and the Lexington Sand and Gravel Co. of South Action, Mass. was awarded the contract to backfill at a cost of $500.00. The job was completed in November, 1964. (Illustration Nos. 7 and 8)

Although maintenance problems have been simplified by the backfilling, it is hoped that the park in its further planning and development will allow the visitor to view the total ruin in context with appropriate interpretative measures.

Walton D. Stowell
Architect

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

Front portion of house foundation walls before excavation and stabilization as viewed from the east. Note undesirable growth and debris, random stone walls and granite foundation blocks.

Photo: National Park Service

Jack Boucher, 1962

Neg. No. Minute Man 62-16

Copy Neg. No. EODC 3904

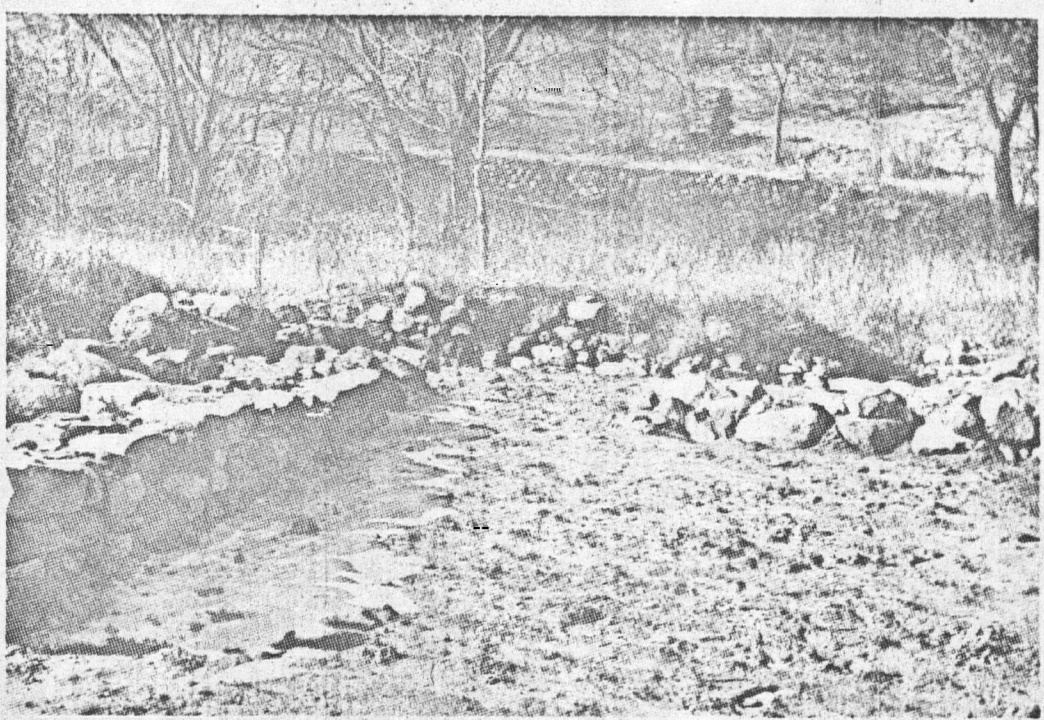


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Orientation sketch of house foundation walls. Note location of future drain line sleeve in southeast wall. Stonework in the front portion is of better quality than that found in the northwest sections. Exact dating of the different sections of the cellar is undetermined, see Historic Data Section, Part 1, for discussion of house chronology.

Delineator: Walton Stowell, 1965

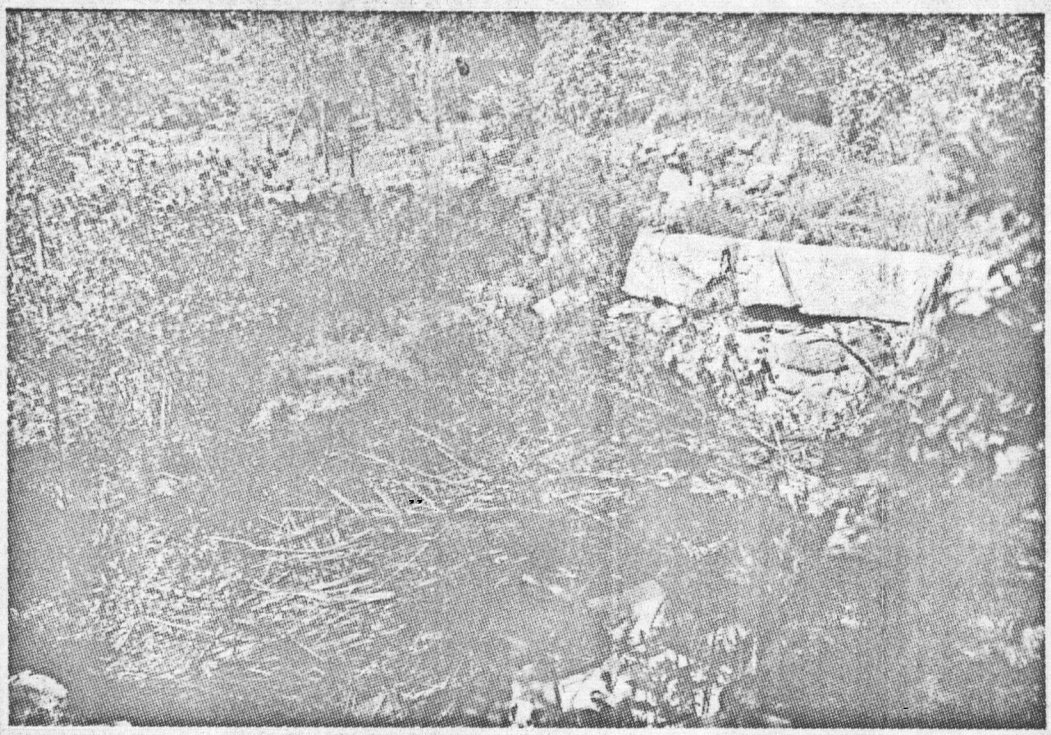


ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Stone foundation walls after excavation as seen from southeast. Compare stonework in front portion (foreground of photo) with that found in more distant sections. Note possible footing for continuation of foundation wall on the northwest side of front portion, 19th century chimney remains, 19th century granite foundation blocks, and exposed later mortar in stonework of front portion.

Photo: National Park Service

George M. Cushing, Jr. - April, 1964

Neg. No. Minute Man 64-15



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

General view of the ruin after excavation from the northwest. Note mortar weatherproofing on top of the walls, granite foundation blocks, collapsed section of wall and temporary buttressing.

Photo: National Park Service

George M. Cushing, Jr., April, 1964

Neg. No. Minute Man 64-14

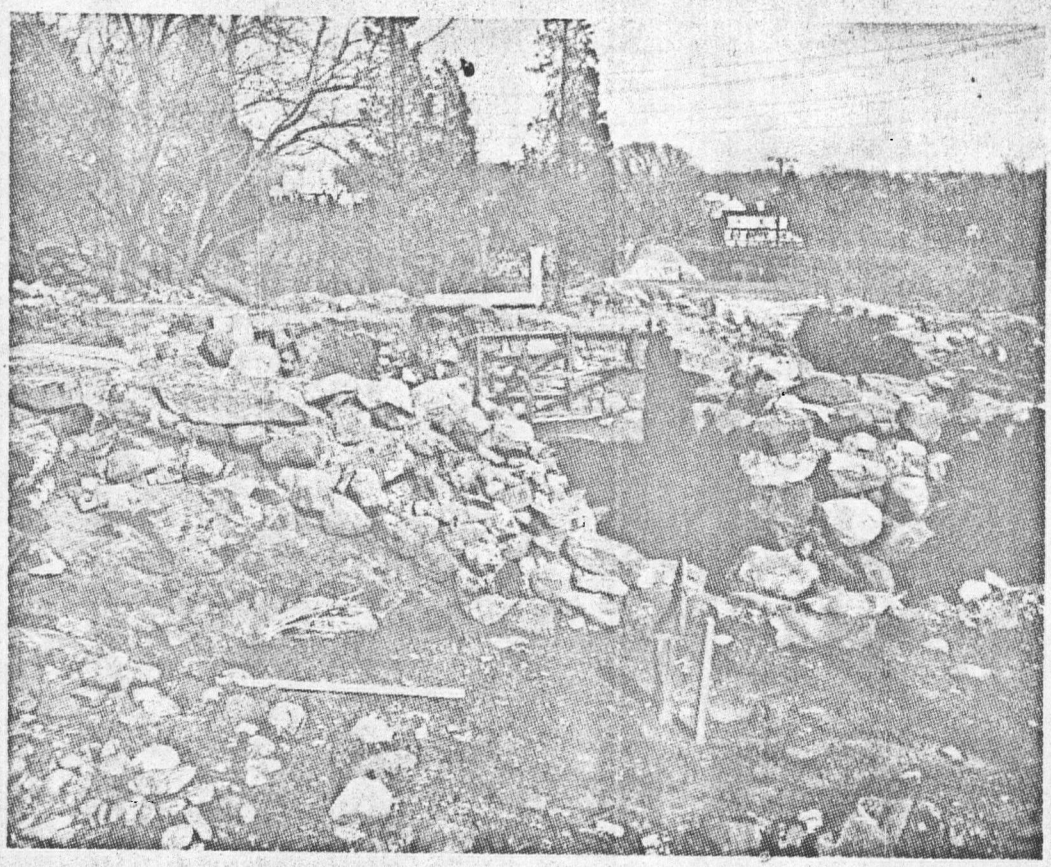


ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

View of collapsed section of southeast (front) foundation wall. Note remains of 19th century chimney and granite front step of 19th century house which is seen in upper right hand corner of photo.

Photo: National Park Service

—Harry V. Martin, August, 1964

Neg. on file at Minute Man

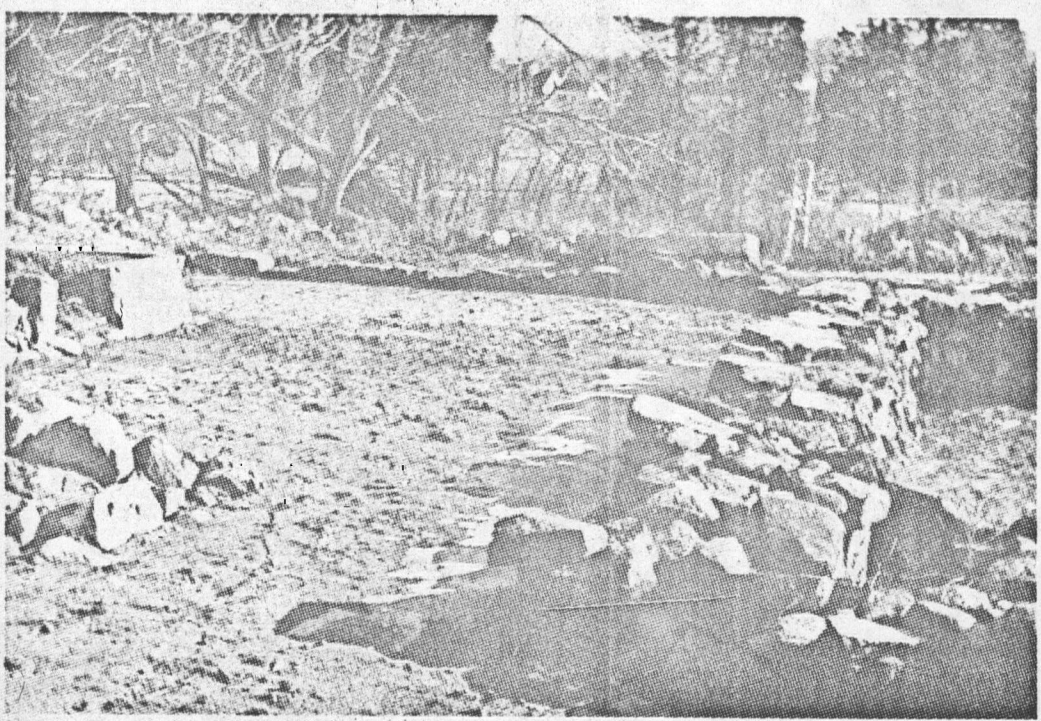


ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

View of the rebuilt section of southeast (front) foundation wall. Compare with Illustration Nos. 4 and 5.

Photo: National Park Service

Harry V. Martin, October - 1964

Neg. on file at Minute Man



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

View of backfilled cellar from the southeast.

Photo: National Park Service

George Wrenn, January - 1965

Neg. on file at Minute Man

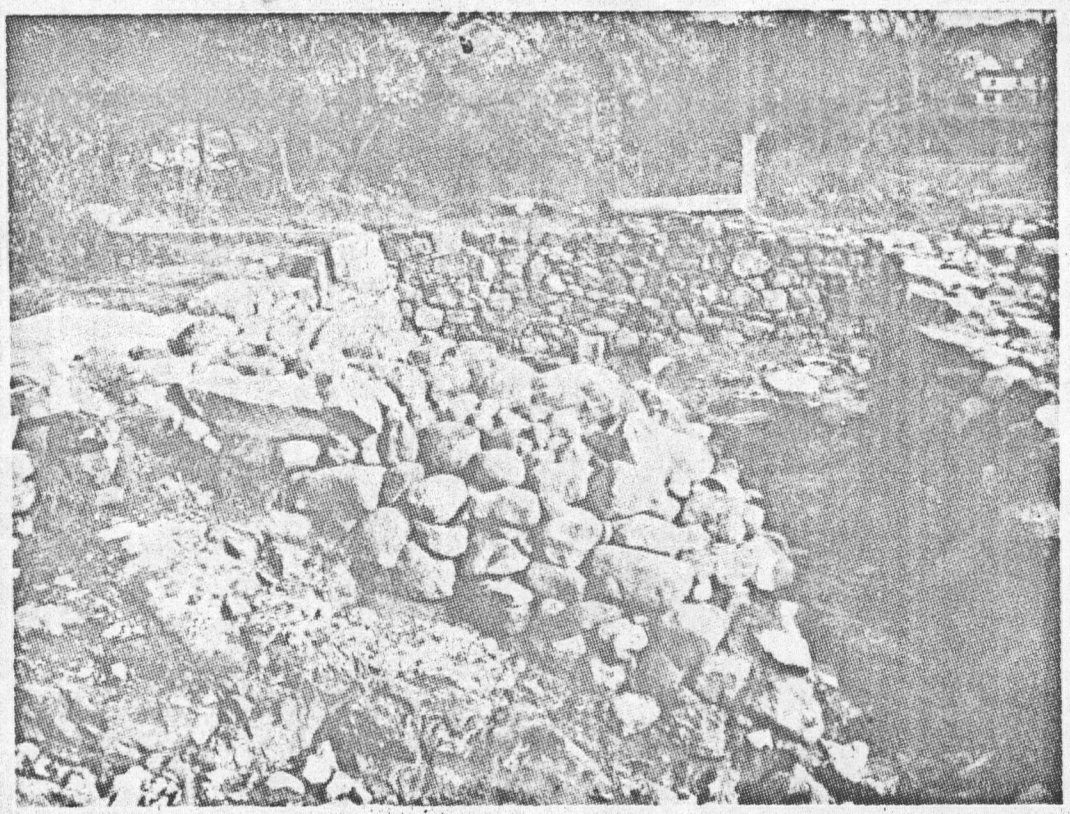


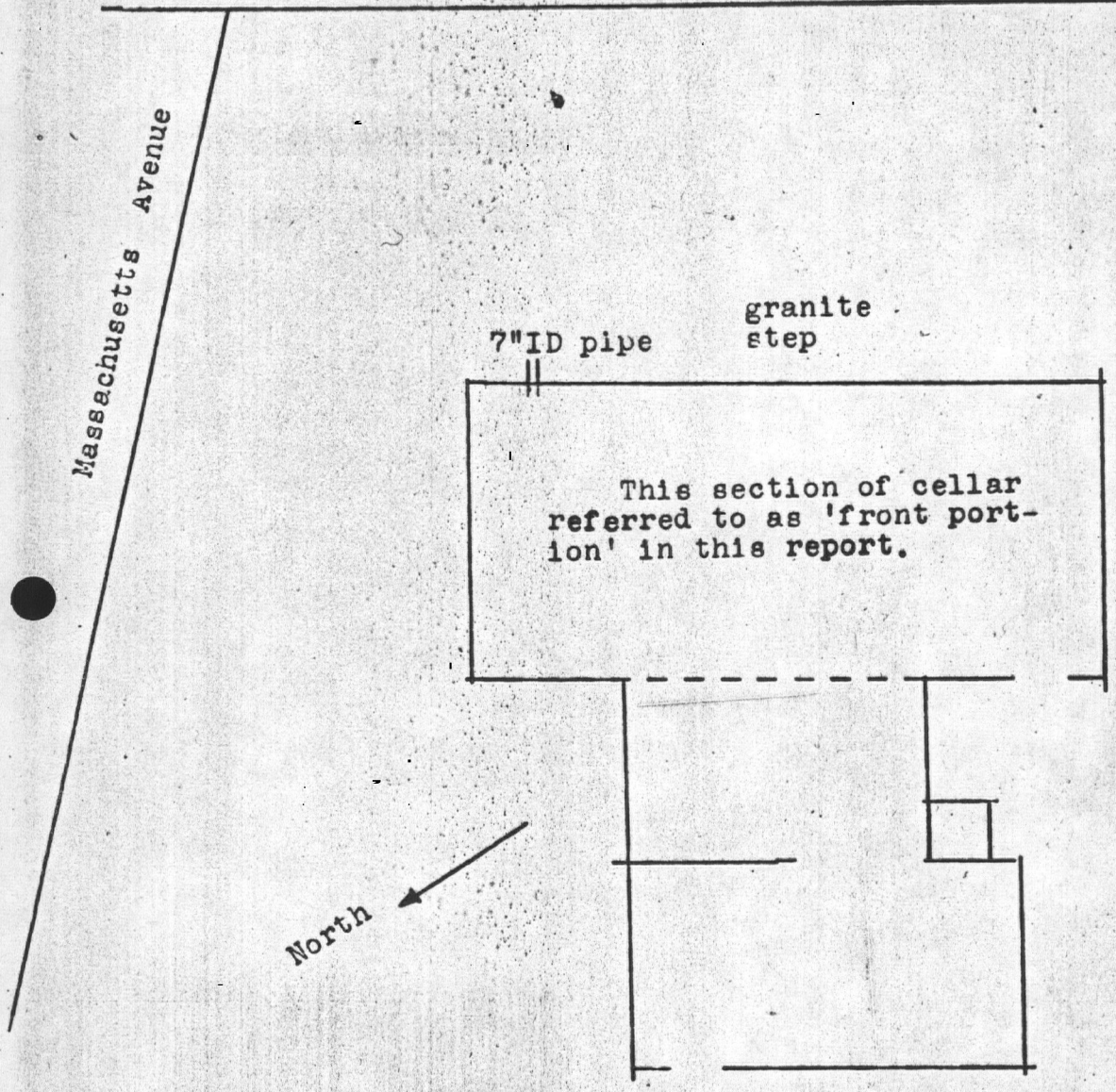
ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

View of backfilled cellar from the northwest.

Photo: National Park Service

George Wrenn, January - 1965

Neg. on file at Minute Man



SKETCH PLAN OF EBENEZER FISKE HOUSE FOUNDATION WALLS

NO SCALE

Form 10-174A
(June 1962)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMPOSITION OF COST FOR COMPLETION REPORT

Work Order Number: B-10
Fund Symbol: 14X1035

Park: Minute Man National Historical Park
Region: NE
Year Programmed: 1963

Location in Park: Easternmost end of Park

Work Order Title: Stabilization of the cellar and foundation of the Ebenezer Fiske House

COMPOSITION OF COST

COSTS CHARGED TO FUNDS ALLOTTED TO FIELD FINANCE OFFICE		
(1) Personal Services	$ 1,576.29	
(2) Travel	42.44	
(3) Contract Work	-	
(4) Supplies and Materials	367.94	
(5) Other Direct Expenses	788.51	
(6) Operation of Equipment	-	
(7) Depreciation of Equipment	-	
(8) Purchase of Construction Equipment	-	
(9) Purchase of Other Accountable Equipment	-	
(10) Other Costs: _____	-	
(11) TOTAL COST CHARGED TO FFO FUNDS	xxxxxxxxxxx	$ 2,775.18
OTHER COSTS:		
(12) PS&S, AP, and/or Facilitating Services @ 16 %	$ 444.03	
(13) Inventory and Other Non-Fund Costs	-	444.03
(14) GROSS WORK ORDER COSTS	xxxxxxxxxxx	$ 3,219.21
LESS:		
(15) Residual Value of Construction Equipment on Line 8	$ -	
(16) Other Credits	-	-
(17) NET COST OF FIXED ASSETS	xxxxxxxxxxx	$ 3,219.21

Identify other costs and other credits by line item entry, on an attached schedule, or explain in narrative.

25543

Form 10-174
(June 1962)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FACE SHEET FOR COMPLETION REPORT

Work Order No. B-10

Fund Symbol 14X1035

Park	Region	Year Programmed
Minute Man National Historical Park	Northeast	1963
Location in Park	**State(s)**	**PCP No.**
At easternmost end of park	Mass.	B-2 ✓
		Master Plan No.
	County or Counties	Master Plan Corrected By
[X] Contract and/or [X] Day Labor	Middlesex	As Built Drawings By

Work Order Title

Stabilization of the cellar and foundation of the Ebenezer Fiske House

Date Started 9/21/64

Date Completed 11/25/64

DESCRIPTION OF FIXED ASSETS (For completion by employee in charge of project)	TOTAL COSTS (For completion by FFO)
100.7 - Structures Historic Structure (Ebenezer Fiske House Foundation Walls)	$3,219.21
TOTAL	$ 3,219.21

DISTRIBUTION No.	To
1	WASO
1	EODC
1	NE Region
1	MIMA NHP
1	[illegible]O

THE FIXED ASSET DESCRIBED ABOVE HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND AUTHORIZED CHANGES

Submitted By: George L. Wrenn — Title: Architect — Date: 1/13/65

Approved By: Edwin W. Small (George L. Wrenn) — Title: Superintendent — Date: 1/13/65

COSTS VERIFIED BY: Ralph E. Motter — Title: Regional Budget Officer — Date: 3/18/65

11360