

DRAFT

JONES/STOW FARM

Battle Road Unit

Minute Man National Historical Park

I. Inventory Status

A. Completion

Level I

Date: 1995

Recorder: David Uschold

Level II

Date: 1995

Recorder: David Uschold

Level III

Date

Recorder

B. Inventory Included a Site Visit: Yes

II. General Landscape Information

A. Property Level

1. Landscape

2. Component Landscape

B. Site Name

1. Historic: Farwell Jones and Widow Olive Stow Farms

2. Current: Minute Man National Historical Park, Jones/Stow Farm

C. CLI Number: Not Available

D. Associated CLI Number:

1. Landscape:

2. Component Landscape:

E. Site Identification

1. Park Alpha Code: MIMA

2. Sub-Unit: Battle Road Unit

3. Management District/Subdistrict: Jones/Stow Farm

4. Tract Number: 03-116, 03-117, 03-119, 03-120, 03-126, 03-145, 03-146, 03-152, 03-155, 03-156, 03-163, 03-168, 03-169, 03-172, 03-174, 03-175, 04-101, 04-102, 04-103, 04-116, 04-117, 04-120, 04-121, 04-128, 04-133, 04-134.

- 5. Region: **Northeast Field Area**
- 6. State: **Massachusetts**
- 7. County: **Middlesex County**

F. Site Location

- 1. USGS Quad: **Concord**
- 2. Other: The Minute Man National Historical Park is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Boston. It contains three separate units totaling 1040 acres and stretches approximately 5 miles from Concord through Lincoln to Lexington. The Battle Road Unit consists of approximately 800 acres along Route 2 from Concord through Lincoln to Lexington. Located at the western end of MIMA's Battle Road Unit, the Jones/Stow Farm is the second of seven component landscapes within the Unit.

G. Cultural Landscape Boundary Description: The Jones/Stow Farm is bounded by Meriam's Corner on the west and the Brooks Farm on the east. The Jones/Stow Farm extends to the park's boundaries on the north and south. Its north is bordered by private agricultural land and Concord Conservation Lands. The south is bordered by private lands (see fig. 1).

H. Boundary UTM's

I. Cultural Landscape Size: approx. 250 acres

J. Cultural Landscape Description: The Jones/Stow Farm, the largest of the seven component landscapes within the Battle Road Unit, is the only area within the park that has been continuously farmed since the 17th-century. It currently contains approximately 50 acres that are used for agricultural purposes. Due to the continued agricultural use, the area affords views across fields and to surrounding agricultural lands (see fig. 2).

Like the rest of the Battle Road Unit, the Jones/Stow Farm area is traversed by Route 2A, a contemporary highway extending along portions of the path of the Battle Road. The area does, however, maintain an agricultural character. Much of the area's historic field patterns remain intact as does much of the historic stone wall network. Some of the area, however, has been allowed to experience successional forest growth and many hedgerows have grown between fields.

Eight residences are contained within the Jones/Stow Farm. On the west end of the area are four 20th-century ranch homes on Manuel Drive which extends north from

Route 2A. East of Manuel Drive at Route 2A is the Minot house, a two and one-half story farmhouse constructed around 1865. Also referred to as the Perry house, this site has numerous outbuildings and serves as a private residence (see fig. 4). The Albano house is a one and one-half story cape constructed around 1915. This house serves as a private residence and has a farm stand in front of it at the road (see fig. 5). These residences are surrounded by open areas of maintained grass lawn.

At the east end of the Jones/Stow Farm area are the Farwell Jones complex including the farm house, a large barn, silo and several outbuildings. The house is a two-story Greek Revival structure constructed before 1775. A row of five maples that may have existed in the 18th century stand along the front of the Farwell Jones house. The Farwell Jones dairy is a large two-level end gable constructed about 1870 (see fig. 6). The Widow Olive Stow house is a two-story Georgian structure constructed around 1760 (see fig. 7). A large deciduous tree with potential historical significance stands in front of the Stowe house. Areas of maintained grass lawn surround the Jones complex and the Stow house.

Two 20th-century houses are located at the east end of the area including the Inferrera and Beatty houses. The Inferrera house (see fig. 8) is west of Shadyside Lane and has several outbuildings including a shed, green house and farm stand. The Beatty house is east of Shadyside Lane and has a large shed associated with it.

K. Cultural Landscape Contexts

1. **Physiographic:** The Jones/Stow Farm area is a combination of agricultural fields, wetland, and forest cover. The area typically is flat with some rolling hills.
2. **Political:** The area is within the town of Concord along the Lincoln town line and is within the 5th and 7th Congressional Districts.
3. **Cultural:** The area maintains a mostly rural agricultural character but the surroundings are experiencing suburbanization, both commercial and residential.

L. Assessment of Overall Condition of Landscape

1. **Good:** Although forest cover has grown within some of the agricultural fields, this area remains mostly agricultural. Route 2 has been incorporated along the route of the Battle Road but it is the only substantial contemporary development that has taken place.
2. Fair
3. Poor
4. Unknown

M. Assessment of Overall Level of Impact Severity

1. Severe
2. **Moderate:** The overriding characteristic of this area was and still is its agricultural land use and rural character.
3. Low
4. Unknown

N. Immediate Threats to Landscape

1. Impending Development
2. **Release to Succession:** Some successional forest growth has already taken place within the park and although it only occurs in limited portions of the Jones/Stow Farm area, it is a threat. Also, several hedgerows have grown among the agricultural fields in the area.
3. Adjacent Lands
4. Unknown
5. Other

O. Adjacent Lands are Determined Contributing to the Significance of the Landscape and are included in the Inventory

1. Yes
2. No: Historically, the surrounding land was agricultural and some remains so today. The general agricultural character of the surrounding area remains generally intact and contributes to the significance of the Battle Road Unit as a whole. While the surrounding lands are mentioned in the inventory, they have not been inventoried themselves.
3. Undetermined

III. Site Plan

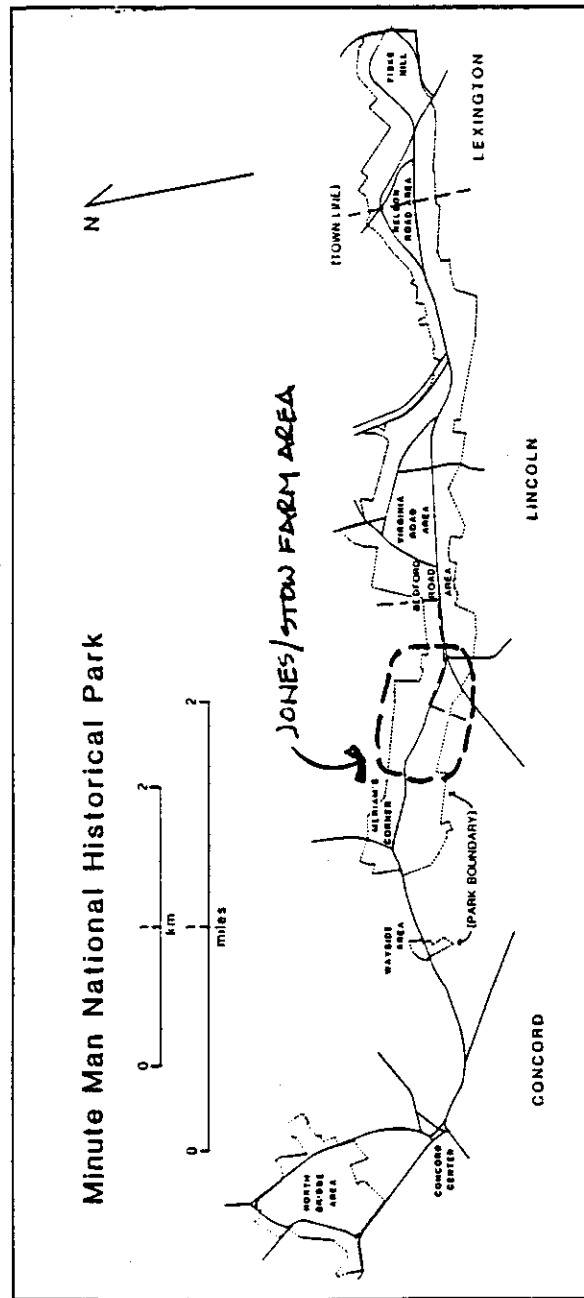


Figure 1: Minute Man National Historical Park (ACMP, 1987).

IV. Site Plan

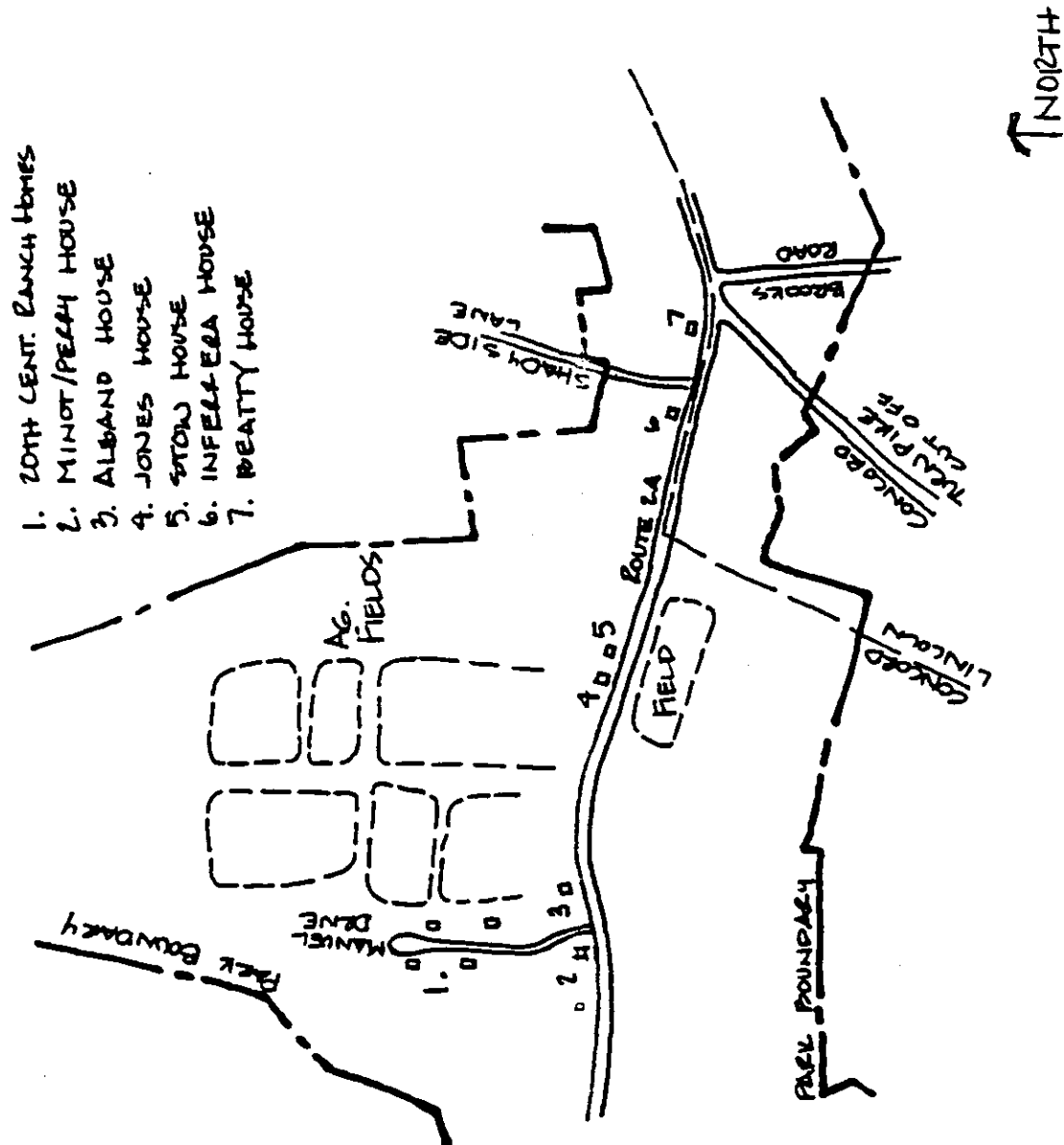


Figure 2: Existing Conditions, Jones/Stow Farm Area, MIMA (OCLP, 1995).

V. Site Plan

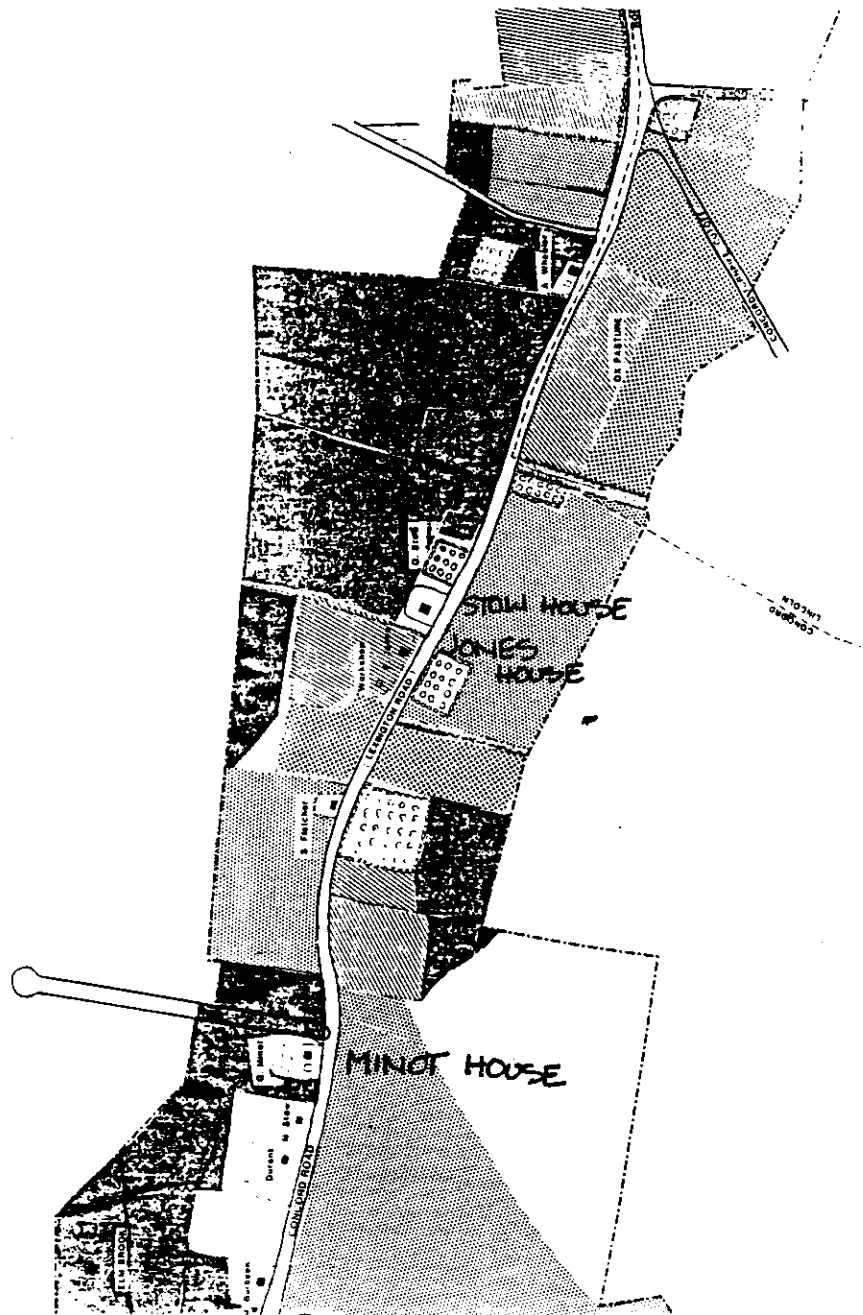


Figure 3: 1775 Base Map, Jones/Stow Farm Area, MIMA (Malcolm, 1985).

VI. Historical Information

A. Landscape Type

1. Designed
2. Vernacular
3. **Historic Site:** The Jones/Stow Farm, as part of the Battle Road Unit of MIMA, is significant for its association with the American Revolution. Specifically, the Jones/Stow Farm was one of several component landscapes along the Battle Road that were the site and setting of the Running Battle, as the Colonial Minute Men forced the British Regulars to retreat toward Lexington at the outbreak of the American Revolution.
4. Ethnographic

B. Land Use

1. Historic: Small-scale agriculture.
2. Current: The Jones/Stow Farm area is maintained as part of the Minute Man NHP. Some of the area remains in agricultural, some has experienced successional forest growth, some is designated wetland and some has been developed for residential use.

C. Chronology

pre1635	Native American habitation.
pre1700	First Colonial settlement.
ca.1760	Olive Stow house constructed.
pre1775	Farwell Jones house constructed.
1775	Running Battle and Outbreak of American Revolution.
1865	Minot house constructed.
post1870	Farwell Jones barn constructed.
post1900	Albano house constructed.
1959	National Park Service establishes MIMA.
19??	NPS acquires Jones/Stow Farm area.

D. Site History: The Jones/Stow Farm area first experienced colonial settlement during the 17th-century. As early as 1639, a house was constructed on the Minot farm site. The Joseph and Olive Stow site was settled as early as 1684 and the Farwell Jones site was settled by 1686. By the time of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War (the period of significance, 1775), the Minot, Jones, and Stow

farms had been established.¹

Joseph Stow had died by 1775, leaving his widow to manage the farm and raise the family. It is assumed that her brother and neighbor, Farwell Jones, aided her.² By 1775, in addition to these early farmsteads, several other residences had been established. Two additional farms of substantial size had been established, the Samuel Fletcher and Abner Wheeler farms. Two residences are documented to have existed within the area, not attached to any of the farms: the Lydia Ball and Mary Taylor homes.³

The character of the area was consistent with that of the surrounding landscape along the Battle Road, primarily agricultural fields. Mostly small scale in this area, the fields were crossed with a network of stone walls and had views to the larger landscape of the surrounding areas. Typically, each of the homes had a houselot, containing various support facilities such as barns, gardens, and orchards.

Since 1775, the area has been continually farmed although to a lesser degree. The Minute Man NHP was established in 1959 and incorporated a large portion of the Jones/Stow Farm in its boundaries. The NPS acquired the land in 19?? and now operates it as part of the Battle Road Unit of MIMA.

E. National Register Status

1. Landscape is Listed on the National Register

a. Landscape Documentation is

1. Adequate

2. **Inadequate:** The Jones/Stow Farm was listed on the National Register in 1966 with its designation as a National Historical Park. Later, in 1981, a National Register nomination form for the entire Minute Man NHP, all three units (North Bridge, Wayside, Battle Road), was filled out. The form, never officially signed or entered, concentrates on the park's buildings and structures and does not document the surrounding

¹ National Park Service. General Management Plan, Minute Man National Historical Park. Boston, National Park Service, NESO, 1989, p100-102.

² Malcolm, Joyce Lee. Historic Grounds Report, Minute Man National Historical Park. Boston, National Park Service, NESO, 1985, p90.

³ Malcolm, Joyce Lee. Historic Grounds Report, Minute Man National Historical Park. Boston, National Park Service, NESO, 1985, p98.

landscape. The current nomination form, for the Battle Road Unit should be revised and completed under the canopy of a nomination for the entire Minute Man NHP. It is the combination of the seven contiguous component landscapes, such as the Jones/Stow Farm, along the Battle Road that combine to preserve the historic setting of the Running Battle.

- b. Dates of Documentation:
 - 1. National Register Nomination Form: 1981
 - 2. Amendment to National Register Nomination:
- 2. Landscape is Not Listed on National Register and is Determined Potentially Significant Based on the Findings of
 - a. Level I - CLI
 - b. Level II - CLI
- 3. Landscape Has been Determined Eligible by SHPO.
- 4. Landscape Has Been Determined of No Potential Significance Based on the Findings of
 - a. Level I - CLI
 - b. Level II - CLI

F. National Register Classification:

- 1. District
- 2. Site
- 3. Multiple Property
- 4. Undetermined
- 5. Building

G. National Register Significance Level

- 1. **National: The Jones/Stow Farm has significance for its association with the American Revolution.**
- 2. State
- 3. Local
- 4. Contributing
- 5. Undetermined

H. National Register Significance Criteria:

- 1. **A: Association with an important event.**
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. Undetermined

I. Historical Context(s):

1. American Revolution

2. 18th-century Agricultural Settlement Patterns in New England

J. Statement of Significance/ Current National Register Status: The Jones/Stow Farm area is significant under Criterion A: association with an important event, the American Revolution. The Jones/Stow Farm area is significant as a contributing portion of the site and setting of the Running Battle at the outbreak of the American Revolution.

The Running Battle progressed along Concord Road in this area as the Colonial Minute Men forced the British to retreat toward Lexington. The British retreated along the road as the Minute Men took positions within the fields in the area. The period of significance for the Revolutionary War association is the day of the Running Battle, April 19, 1775.

K. National Historic Landmark Status

No Date: Theme:

L. World Heritage Site Status

No Date:

M. List of Primary Contributing Features

Agricultural fields
Views and vistas across fields
Minot House (contributing in character)(LCS# 40028)
Farwell Jones House (complex)(LCS# 23167)
Jones Barn (contributing in character)(LCS# 40241)
Widow Olive Stow House (complex)(LCS# 23166)
Stone wall network
Route of Battle Road
Albano barn foundation (LCS# 40246)

N. List of Noncontributing Features

Albano House (LCS# 40231)
Route 2
Forest growth (stands and hedgerows)

VII. Potential Ethnographic Value

- A. Ethnographic Survey has been conducted
 - 1. Yes-Ethnographic Values Identified:
 - a. Restricted Information
 - b. Unrestricted
 - 2. No-Values potentially present, but unidentified or unassessed
- B. List Groups potentially associated with landscape historically and/or currently:
- C. Description of known Ethnographic Value: Undetermined at this time.

VIII. Documentation

A. Overall Assessment of Documentation of the Cultural Landscape

1. Good
2. Fair
3. Poor

B. Documentation Checklist: (add date of document's completion and highlight its adequacy for addressing the cultural landscape)

REPORT	COMMENTS	ADEQUATE LANDSCAPE COVERAGE ?
General Management Plan, 1989	The GMP focus is on the park as a whole, but it does address some specific issues within the Jones/Stow area.	NO
Development Concept Plan		
Resource Management Plan	Updated annually	
Historic Resource Study		
Historical Base Map, 1985	<i>The Scene of the Battle, 1775</i> , Malcolm. The information included is very thorough historical background material. General landscape descriptions are given but no detailed feature level information is provided.	NO
Land Protection Plan		
Special Resources Study		

Administrative History, MIMA, 1985		NO
Cultural Landscape Report, 1993	<i>A Management Plan to Balance Cultural and Natural Resources: The Minute Man National Historic Park Case Study, University of Massachusetts. While this landscape study addresses MIMA as a whole, it does cover specific issues within the Jones/Stow area, at least in a conceptual form.</i>	NO

C. Graphic Documentation

1. Topography - existing/needed
2. Boundary - existing/needed
3. Site Plan - existing/needed

IX. Management

A. Management Category

1. **A-Must be Preserved**
2. B-Should be Preserved
3. C-May be Preserved
4. D-May be Released/alterd/destroyed
5. Not Specified

B. Approved Treatment

	Completed?	Document and Date
1. Preservation	y/n	
2. Stabilization	y/n	
3. Rehabilitation	y/n	
4. Restoration (selective)	NO	GMP 1989
5. Reconstruction	y/n	
6. Neglect	y/n	
7. Destruction	y/n	
8. Undetermined		

C. Management Agreement: **not applicable**

1. Concession Contract
2. Cooperative Agreement
3. Special Use Permit
4. Lease (Historic Property)
5. Interagency Agreement
6. Memorandum of Agreement
7. Memorandum of Understanding
8. Other:

D. NPS Legal Interest

1. Fee
2. Less-than-fee:
 - a. Preservation Easement
 - b. Development Easement
 - c. Other
3. **Fee Simple Reservation**
 - a. **Life Tenancy**
 - b. Period Tenancy
4. None:

- a. Private
- b. Other Federal Agency
- c. Local Government

E. Public Access to Site

- 1. Unrestricted
- 2. With Permission
- 3. **Other Restrictions**
- 4. No Access Currently

X. Analysis and Evaluation

The Jones/Stow Farm area, located near the western end of MIMA's Battle Road Unit, is one of several component landscapes that when combined create the site and setting of the start of the American Revolution. Today the National Park Service manages and interprets the Jones/Stow Farm area (approximately 250 acres) as part of the agricultural setting of the Running Battle. The Running Battle, the first exchange of shots in the war, began at the Meriam House just west of the Jones/Stow Farm on April 19, 1775.

In 1775, the Jones/Stow Farm area is documented to have contained four farms and several individual residences. The farms existing at the time of the Revolution included the Farwell Jones, Widow Olive Stow, Samuel Fletcher and Abner Wheeler farms. Two residences existed among the farms including the Lydia Ball and Mary Taylor homes. Others are presumed to have existed but have not been documented. These sites, all fronting Concord Road (Battle Road), were dispersed among the agricultural fields along the road giving the area the character of a fully developed agricultural settlement.

Historically the agricultural field patterns were the major character-defining element of the area's spatial organization. The area was characterized by several houselots along Concord Road, each surrounded by agricultural fields. While many of the homes are gone, the historic field patterns remain. Although the Jones/Stow Farm area is now managed as a park much of the land remains in agricultural use. However, today this agriculture exists within more suburban surroundings.

The response to natural features has also changed. Historically, some of the agricultural fields existed in primarily wet areas. These areas were drained to allow for agricultural use. Currently, the wetlands are protected from this activity, allowing them to reestablish themselves. The views and vistas of the area have undergone some changes since the period of significance. Historically, due to a more open character of the landscape, views existed across the agricultural fields and included the larger landscape. Today, the views of the agricultural fields are somewhat limited. Few views remain, most having been lost to hedgerows and forest growth. Views which include the larger landscape are much more limited today. The circulation elements in the Jones/Stow farm area have undergone some changes since the period of significance. The routes of the historic circulation patterns seem to have been retained, although, their character has changed. Concord Road (Battle Road) is now incorporated into Route 2, altering its character from a small dirt road to a paved highway. Many farm roads remain and probably retain their historic character. Although some of the fields have been allowed to grow into successional forest, the area retains its agricultural appearance.

Extant historic structures include the Jones and Stow houses. The Minot house, a 19th-century structure, is also extant. Five 20th-century homes also have been constructed in the area. In addition, much of the historic stone wall network remains intact.

While most of the area's small-scale character-defining features have been lost, the aspects that define the overall character have been retained. The agricultural character defined by scattered houselots surrounded by agricultural fields has been maintained. The most obvious changes to the area are the increased traffic produced by the improvement of Route 2A and the views blocked by hedgerows and successional forest growth.

Contributing Features:

- Agricultural fields
- Views and vistas across fields
- Minot House (contributing in character)(LCS# 40028)
- Farwell Jones House (complex)(LCS# 23167)
- Jones Barn (contributing in character)(LCS# 40241)
- Widow Olive Stow House (complex)(LCS# 23166)
- Stone wall network
- Route of Battle Road
- Albano barn foundation (LCS# 40246)

Noncontributing Features

- Albano House (LCS# 40231)
- Route 2
- Forest growth (stands and hedgerows)

X. Bibliography

- A. NRID#:
- B. HABS#:
- C. HAER#:
- D. ASMIS#:
- E. Sources: (include CRBIB#, DSC/TIC# if available)

XI. Supplemental Information



Figure 4: George Minot House (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 5: Albano House (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 6: Farwell Jones House (OCLP, 1995).

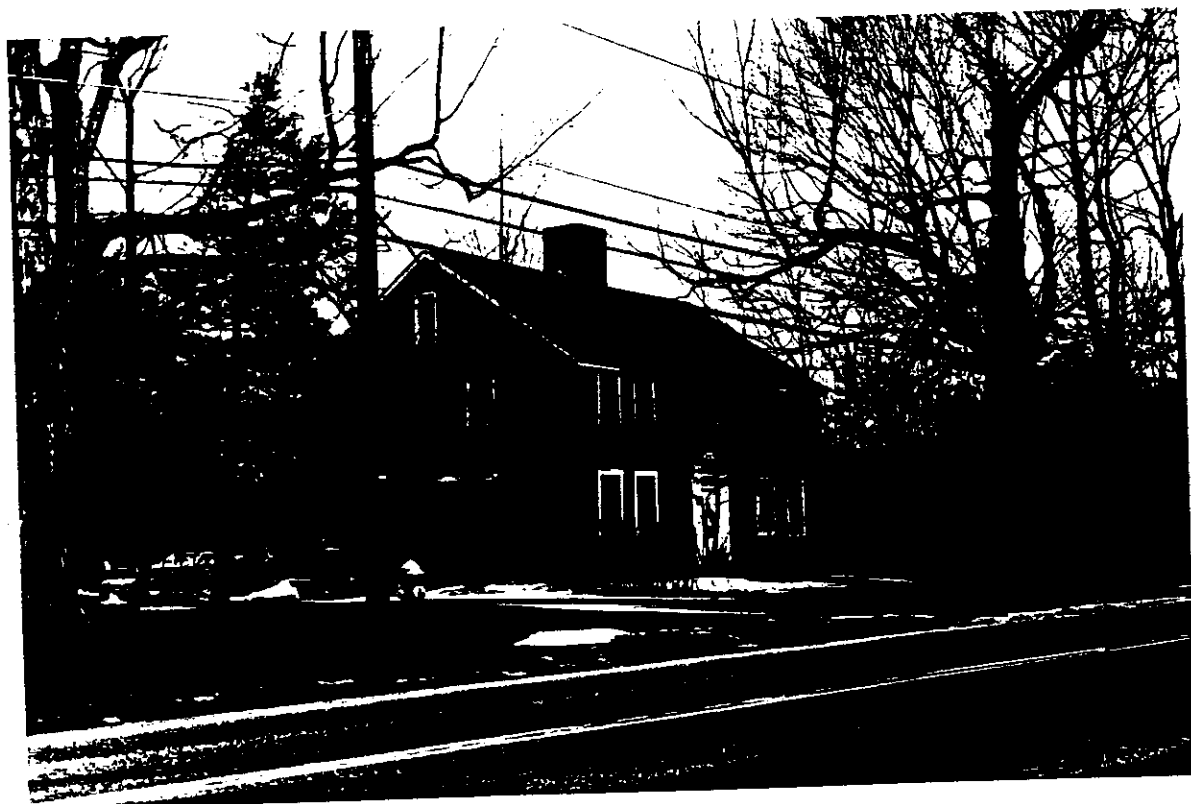


Figure 7: Widow Olive Stow House (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 8: Inferrera House (OCLP, 1995).