

Cultural Landscape Inventory

NELSON FARM AREA

DRAFT

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: Nelson Farm
 - 2. Current: Nelson Farm Area, Minute Man National Historical Park
- C. CLI Number
- D. Associated CLI Number(s)
 - 1. Landscape:
 - 2. Component Landscape(s)
- E. Site Identification
 - 1. Park Alpha Code: MIMA
 - 2. Sub-Unit: Battle Road Unit
 - 3. Management District/Subdistrict: Nelson Farm
 - 4. Tract Number: 01-106, 01-107, 01-109 thru 01-112, 01-114, 01-117, 01-118, 01-131, 01-133, 01-136, 01-143, 01-144, 01-149 thru 01-152, 01-155, 01-159, 01-162,

01-164 thru 01-167, 01-171, 01-180, 02-101, 02-138.

5. Region: Northeast Field Area

6. State: Massachusetts

7. County: Middlesex

F. Site Location

1. USGS Quad: Concord

2. Other: The Minute Man National Historical Park (MIMA) is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Boston. It contains three separate units totalling approximately 1040 acres and stretching approximately 5 miles from Concord to Lexington. The Battle Road Unit consists of approximately 800 acres along Route 2 from Concord through Lincoln to Lexington. The Nelson Farm area is located near the eastern end of the Battle Road Unit of MIMA and straddles the Lincoln/Lexington town line.

G. Cultural Landscape Boundary Description: The general boundaries of the Nelson Farm area, unrelated to historic boundaries or patterns, are the park boundaries to the north and south, the Paul Revere area on the west and the Fiske Hill area on the east. Hanscom Field and Hanscom Air Force Base are along the Nelson Farm area's north border. The Minute Man Vocational and Technical High School is along the southern border (see fig. 1).

H. Boundary UTM's

I. Cultural Landscape Size: approximately 115 acres

J. Cultural Landscape Description: The Nelson Farm area, at the east end of the park between the Paul Revere and Fiske Hill areas, is an area where the Battle Road diverges from the path of Route 2A. The overall character of the area is somewhat rural, with suburban surroundings. The area contains several historic houselots of the Nelson family, the Whittemore site, and the Battle Road Visitor Center. Several significant archeological sites and an extensive stone wall network are extant. The stone walls within the Nelson Farm are typical of those found throughout the park, however, the western portion of the Nelson Farm area has an extremely high concentration of the walls. Several 20th-century structures have been added within the Nelson Farm area and the surrounding land has experienced a substantial amount of development. Hanscom Air Force Base and Hanscom Field border the north side of the Nelson Farm area. An access road for the base runs through the Nelson Farm area and the base housing is visible from several points in the Nelson Farm area (see fig. 2).

The majority of the Nelson Farm area, historically in agricultural fields, has become overgrown with successional forest. The close proximity of Hanscom Air Force Base and Hanscom Field to the Nelson Farm area make much of this forested area extremely important as a visual and physical buffer between Hanscom and the park. This woodland screen masks

most views of the surrounding development and maintains the historic character of the park (see fig. 4).

The section of the Concord Road (Battle Road) that diverges from Route 2A and extends through the Nelson Farm area is approximately three-quarters of a mile in length. During the 19th century, the western portion of the road was renamed Nelson Road, after the family who owned most of the surrounding land from the 18th to the 20th centuries. This portion of the road has been restored to its historic unpaved appearance and is lined with stone walls and mature maple and oak trees (see fig. 5). The eastern portion of the Battle Road in the Nelson Farm area is extant but abandoned. Now called Marrett Road, it was paved with asphalt in the 20th century but is no longer used since the construction of Airport Road (see fig. 6). Airport Road is a two-lane paved access road for Hanscom AFB and Hanscom Field (see fig. 7). The portion of the road that is now Route 2A was added as Massachusetts Avenue around 1800 and was improved into Route 2A in the 20th century.

Along the restored section of the Battle Road there are five potentially significant historic sites. From west to east, they include the Josiah Nelson hop house foundation, the John Nelson house and barn, the Daniel Brown site, the Josiah Nelson site, and the Thomas Nelson Jr. site.

On the south side of the road, at the start of the Nelson area, are the remnants of a stone foundation. Wedged in the corner between the Battle Road and Route 2A, the foundation consists of two adjacent sections approximately ten square feet each, partially submerged into a small slope. This feature is presumed to be the foundation of Josiah Nelson's hop house (see fig. 8).¹

The John Nelson house, also in the corner of the Battle Road and Route 2 just east of the hop house site, is an 1808-1810 two-story Federal/Georgian house facing Route 2A (see fig. 9). A one-story garage wing and a two-story ell have been added. The Nelson House has exceptional architectural integrity and may even incorporate the Daniel Brown house (ca.1700), possibly relocated from its original location across the road. An early 19th-century barn is associated with the John Nelson house (see fig. 10). The barn is a one-story side gable with a 20th-century addition on rear. The yard area surrounding the John Nelson complex is maintained as an open grass lawn.

Three significant archeological sites exist within the Nelson Farm area. After the John Nelson house, the next site along the Battle Road, to the north, is the Daniel Brown site.

¹ U.S. Department of the Interior. *Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume 1*. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987. The use of this structure is documented in a 1902 sketch by George Nelson, occupant of the John Nelson house.

This site had been abandoned as a residence by the 1770s and the structures no longer remain, but the site may have archeological value. The site is currently overgrown with forest cover and is not interpreted to visitors. Also to the north of the Battle Road are the Josiah Nelson and Thomas Nelson Jr. sites (see fig. 11, 12 & 13). Evidence of these houses exists in the form of landforms and structures, including foundations, chimneys, and stone walls. The yard areas surrounding these sites are maintained with an open character as grass lawns and both are surrounded by stone walls. Potentially having historical and cultural value, these two archeological sites are interpreted to visitors. The Thomas Nelson Sr. site is located at the juncture of Nelson and Marrett Roads. However, the exact location house lot features remain undocumented and the site is not currently interpreted.

Marrett Road, the eastern portion of the Battle Road, has not been restored and has a much different character than Nelson Road. Marrett Road was paved in 19?? but has since been abandoned. Airport Road was constructed in 19?? and has since been paved. Airport Road now acts as a secondary access for Hanscom AFB and Hanscom Field. It also provides access to the Battle Road Visitor Center and two contemporary residences on Marrett Road. North of the road, these two private residences are screened from view by successional forest growth.

The Whittemore site, at the east end of the area and north of the road, is the location of one of the few buildings in the park standing during the Running Battle. This site was owned and occupied by Jacob Whittemore in 1775 and consisted of at least the extant house, a barn, corn house, cider mill, and, further down the road, a blacksmith shop.² The extant house was constructed before 1745 and is a two-story, side-gable Georgian with a five-bay layout and a large central chimney (see fig. 14). A barn stands adjacent to the house today, but was moved to its current site in 1977 (see fig. 15). Originally located on the south side of the road, it is referred to as the Hargrove Barn. It is an early 19th-century, one-story side-gable structure. The yard area surrounding the Whittemore house and barn is maintained as an open grass lawn and the complex currently serves as NPS housing.

Areas with potential archeological significance along Marrett Road include the blacksmith shop site and the Bull Tavern site. The blacksmith shop was part of the Whittemore complex and was located on the west side of the Bluff (see fig. 16). The Bull Tavern site is located in the triangle between Route 2A and Marrett Road. Both of these structures stood in 1775 but are no longer extant.

The Battle Road Visitor Center and its parking, constructed in 1975, are located within the island of land enclosed by the Battle Road and Route 2A (see fig. 17 & 18). The parking,

2 U.S. Department of the Interior. *Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume II*. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987, p54.

which can accommodate approximately 120 cars, is centrally located within the Nelson Farm area while the visitor center is toward the eastern portion.

Although the majority of the area is successional forest, several open fields do remain. One field remains north of the Battle Road, east of the Whittemore site, and two fields remain south of Route 2A, at the Airport Road intersection. A triangular field also exists between Airport Road, Route 2A, and Marrett Road.

K. Cultural Landscape Contexts

1. **Physiographic:** The physiography of the Nelson Farm area is that of a level plateau at approximately 200 feet above sea level. Small hills exist to the north, east, and south while the grade begins to drop along the northwest side of the area. Intensely farmed historically, the area was characterized by agricultural fields, orchards, and houselots. Today, surviving elements are limited to the Battle Road and a few structures and houselots, which have also experienced change. The pastures and fields have become overgrown with successional forest, giving a much different character to the physical make-up of the area.
2. **Political:** The Nelson Farm area is located on the boundary of Lincoln and Lexington, Massachusetts.
3. **Cultural:** Historically part of a small-scale agricultural area, the Nelson Farm area is now maintained and preserved as part Minute Man NHP. The surrounding towns of Concord, Lincoln and Lexington, once farming communities, now serve as suburbs for Boston and the Route 128 corridor.

L. Assessment of Overall Condition of Landscape

1. **Good**
2. **Fair**
3. **Poor**

M. Assessment of Overall Level of Impact Severity

1. **Severe:**
2. **Moderate**
3. **Low**

N. Immediate Threats to Landscape

1. **Impending Development**
2. **Release to Succession**
3. **Adjacent Lands**

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

1. **Yes**
2. **No**

III. Site Map

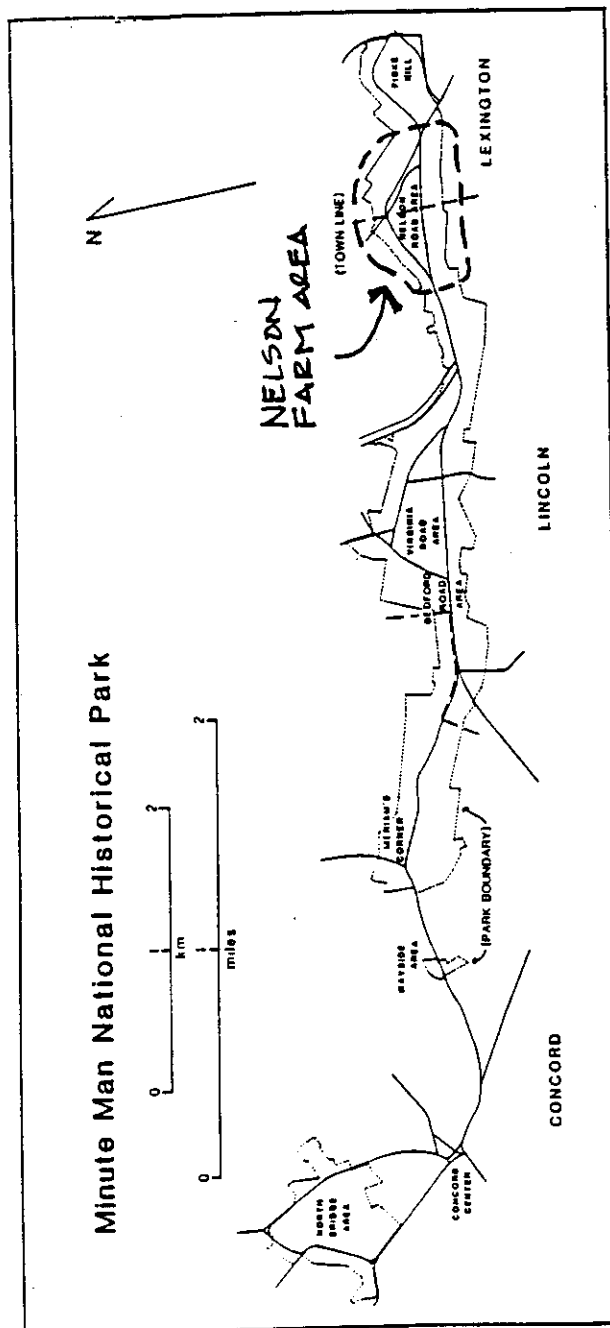


Figure 1: Minute Man National Historical Park (MIMA ACMP V1, 1987).

IV. Site Plan

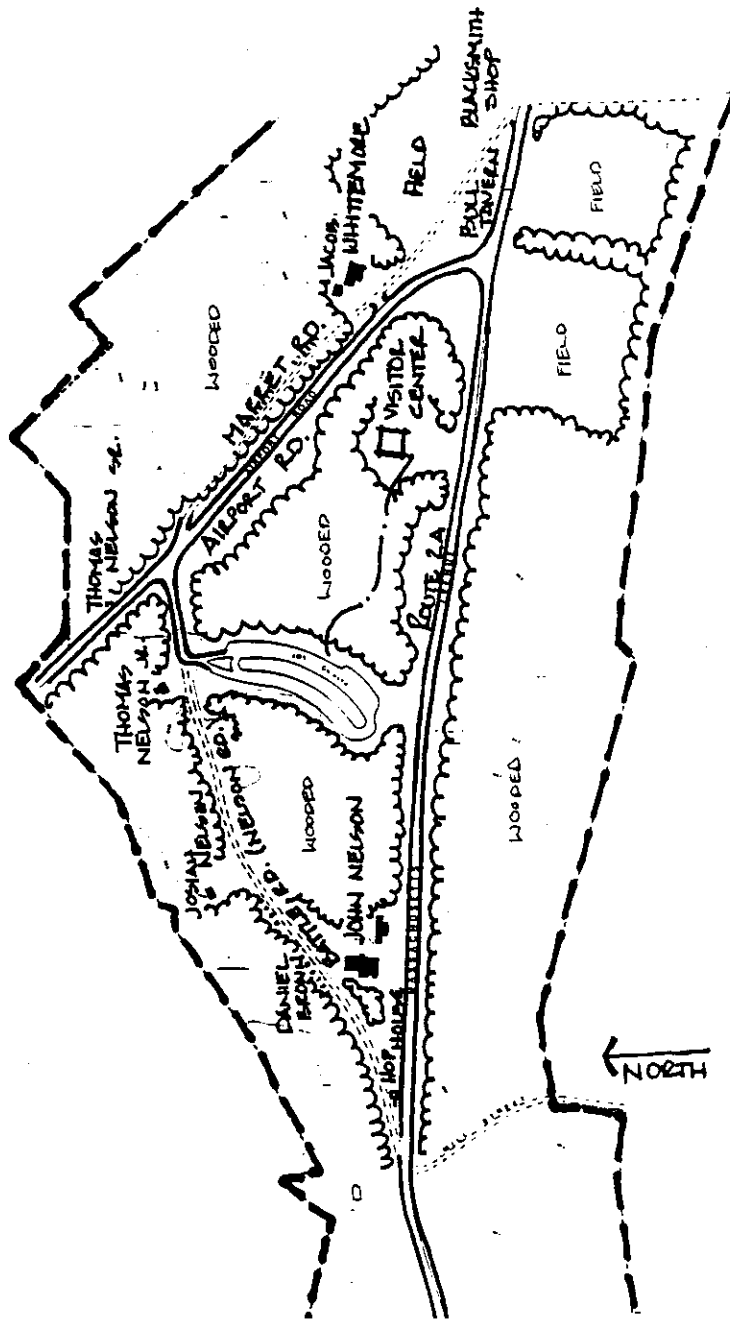


Figure 2: Existing Conditions, Nelson Farm Area, MIMA (MIMA ACMP V1, 1987; with OCLP overlay, 1996).

V. Period Plan

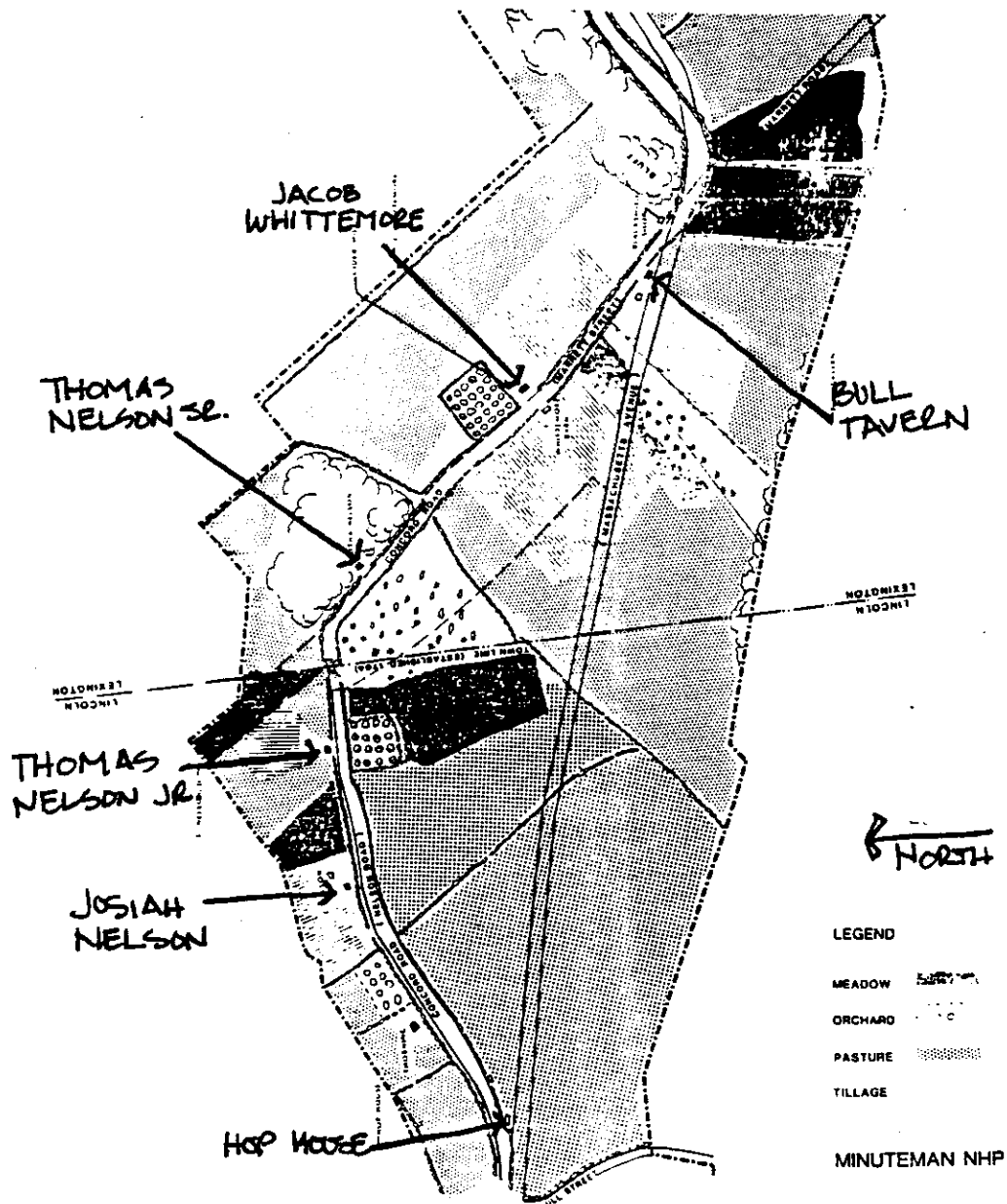


Figure 3: 1775 Base Plan, Nelson Farm Area, MIMA (Malcolm, 1985).

VI. Historical Information

A. Landscape Type

1. Designed
2. Vernacular
3. Historic Site: The Nelson Farm area, as part of the Battle Road Unit of Minute Man NHP, is significant for its association with the American Revolution. Specifically, the Nelson Farm area was one of the several component landscapes along the Battle Road that witnessed the Running Battle, as the Colonial Minutemen forced the British to retreat toward Lexington at the outbreak of the American Revolution.
4. Ethnographic

B. Land Use

1. Historic: Small-scale agriculture.
2. Current: The Nelson Farm area currently is maintained as part of Minute Man National Historical Park. The Battle Road Visitor Center has been added and the Nelson Road portion of the Battle Road has been restored. The remnants of the historic features along the restored road are being preserved and interpreted.

C. Chronology

pre-1635	Native occupation.
ca.1716	House constructed that would become Thomas Nelson Sr. house.
pre1722	Daniel Brown house constructed (abandoned or moved by 1775).
1725	Thomas Nelson Sr. purchases land and house in area.
pre1726	Joseph Brown (Bull Tavern) House constructed.
ca.1750s	Thomas Jr. and Josiah Nelson purchase land in area.
ca.1754	Jacob Whittemore house constructed.
1770	Thomas Nelson Sr. dies, leaving house and some land to daughter Tabitha.
1775	American Revolution begins (April 19) at North Bridge, "Running Battle" begins at Meriam's Corner and extends along Battle Road through Nelson Farm toward Lexington.
1777-79	Joseph Brown house began operating as a tavern.
1778	Tabitha Nelson dies, leaves holdings to Thomas Jr.
1796-97	Bull Tavern burned or demolished.
ca.1800	Massachusetts Avenue constructed.
1908	Josiah Nelson house destroyed by fire.
1947	Hargrove barn moved to Whittemore site.
post-1950	Area experiences suburbanization from about 1950 to present.
1957	Air Force acquires Nelson farm.
1959	Nelson Farm transferred to NPS.
19??	Airport Road paved.
1975	Battle Road Visitor Center and parking constructed.

D. Site History: The Nelson Farm area first experienced colonial settlement during the 17th century. The first documented occupants were Philip Goodwin and Daniel Brown. Philip Goodwin occupied the house and land that would eventually become the property of Thomas Nelson Sr. in 1725. Daniel Brown occupied a house and land in the area by 1722. Thomas Nelson Sr. became the first of several generations of the Nelson family that would occupy the area into the 20th century.

The Nelson Farm area was involved in the events of April 19, 1775 in several ways. It is believed that Josiah stopped the British scouts in the morning after they captured Paul Revere. The British wounded Josiah after which he rode to Bedford to warn of the British approach.³ Thomas Nelson Jr. played no particular role in the battle or the war, however, two British soldiers were apparently buried in his orchard across from his house.⁴ Another British soldier is presumed to have been killed in front of the blacksmith shop that stood at the east end of the area, on the Whittemore site.⁵

In 1775, three Nelson farms, the Whittemore farm and Bull Tavern farm stood along the Concord Road in this area. The Daniel Brown site had been abandoned, and the house possibly moved by 1775. While the site was occupied it consisted of a house, a small orchard and pasture. It had seven acres north of the road and 33 acres to the south. The Josiah Nelson site is the next farm north of the road in an easterly direction. Josiah was Thomas Sr.'s youngest child, born in 1726. Josiah's farm consisted of his house, constructed by 1761, a barn behind, extensive stone walls, and the hop house down the road. The surrounding land included tilled land, pasture, meadow, and orchards. The house was destroyed in a fire in 1908. The Thomas Nelson Jr. site was the next farm along the Battle Road. Thomas Jr. and his twin sister Tabitha were Josiah's older siblings, born in 1721. Thomas's house was constructed by 1761 and was expanded in 1778 when the Thomas Sr. house (Tabitha's house) was moved and appended to it. The Thomas Jr. site had a barn, various outbuildings, wells, stone walls, fences, and walks. The farm itself included tilled land, pasture, meadow, and orchards. The house was torn down in the late 1890s and

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- 3 U.S. Department of the Interior. Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume 1. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987, p226.
 - 4 U.S. Department of the Interior. Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume 1. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987, p127.
 - 5 U.S. Department of the Interior. Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume 1. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987, p59.

another was built in its place. The new house was removed by MIMA in 1968.⁶ The next and final Nelson site is that of Thomas Sr. and, in 1775, his daughter Tabitha. This farmstead consisted of a house constructed by 1716 and a barn. As noted, the house was moved and appended to Thomas Jr's house in 1778. Little has been documented regarding the features of this site and the presumed location has been severely disturbed.

The Jacob Whittemore house, located adjacent to the Nelson sites, was constructed by 1754, and probably earlier. A cider mill and corn shed were located behind the house. The Whittemore barn was located across the road and was surrounded by a 43-acre parcel of land. The barn was standing in 1754, and remained at least until 1855. Also associated with the Whittemore farm was a blacksmith shop on the west side of the Bluff. By the early 20th century another barn stood on the site west of the house. It is not known when this structure was demolished. A small barn exists on the site today, constructed in 1938 (Hargrove barn) across the road and moved to the Whittemore site by the NPS in 1977.

Jacob Whittemore sold approximately 4 acres of the parcel surrounding his barn to Josiah Mansfield in 1772. This parcel, south of the road is presumed to have been the site of the Bull Tavern, since Mansfield was one of its proprietors. The Bull Tavern was constructed by 1726, but its history and occupants are unclear. It is presumed that it was not yet operating as a tavern in 1775, but was rented by John Muzzy and his son Isaac and used as their residence. The earliest documented date it operated as a tavern is 1800.

The John Nelson House was constructed around 1810 on Massachusetts Avenue (now Route 2A). Presumably at the same time, the John Nelson barn was also constructed on the west side of the house. Additions to both the house and barn were made during the 20th century.

The Nelson Farm area was occupied by members of the Nelson family into the 20th century. Some of the land was purchased by the US Air Force in 1957. With the establishment of Minute Man NHP in 1959, some of that land in the Nelson Farm area was transferred to the NPS and efforts began to preserve and interpret the area. In 1975 the Battle Road Visitor Center was constructed. Finally, in 1977 a small barn was moved to the Whittemore site from a location across the road.

Today, the John Nelson house and barn are a private residence and the Jacob Whittemore site is used as park housing. The restored Battle Road and extant features of the Josiah and Thomas Nelson Jr. sites are interpreted to visitors. The Thomas Nelson Sr., Bull Tavern, Daniel Brown and blacksmith sites are not interpreted.

6 U.S. Department of the Interior. Archeological Collections Management at Minute Man National Historical Park, Volume 1. Division of Cultural Resources, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Boston, MA, 1987, p125.

E. National Register Status

1. Landscape is Listed on the National Register

a. Landscape Documentation is

1. Adequate

2. Inadequate: The Nelson Farm area was listed on the National Register in 1966 with MIMA's designation as a National Historic Site. Later, in 1981, a National Register form for the entire park, including all three units (North Bridge Unit, Wayside Unit, Battle Road Unit) was filled out. The form, never officially signed or entered on the National Register, concentrates on the park's buildings and structures and does not describe the landscape. The current nomination form should be revised and completed with the Nelson Farm area under the canopy of a listing for the entire Minute Man NHP as a historic district. It is the combination of several contiguous sites, such as the Nelson Farm area, 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 NR Nomination: _____

2. Landscape is Not Listed on National Register and is Determined Potentially Significant Based on the Findings of (highlight choice)

a. Level I - CLI: Based on the findings of CLI Level I, the Nelson Farm area appears to have significance for its association with the Revolutionary War. More specifically, the Nelson Farm was part of the site and setting of the Running Battle at the outbreak of the war.

b. Level II - CLI

3. Landscape has been determined eligible by SHPO. Date: _____

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

G. National Register Significance Level

1. National: The Nelson Farm area 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:

1. Revolutionary History (American Revolution)
2. 18th Century Agricultural Settlement Patterns in New England (potential).

J. Statement of Significance: The Nelson Farm area is significant under Criterion A: association with an important event, the American Revolution. The Nelson Farm area was one of several component landscapes that combined to create the site and setting for the Running Battle at the outbreak of the American Revolution. As the British troops retreated from their confrontation with the Colonial Minute Men at the North Bridge in Concord, the first shots of the Running Battle took place at Meriam's Corner, thus beginning the Running Battle. The Running Battle progressed east from Meriam's Corner as the Colonial Minute Men forced the retreat of the British. The British retreated along the Concord Road (Battle Road) through the Nelson Farm area. The Colonial Minute Men continued their push as they pursued the British from their position within the fields and woods along the road.

The Minute Men used the agricultural setting to their advantage, allowing them success in forcing the British retreat. The agricultural fields and stone walls allowed the Minute Men to conceal themselves while still having access to the approaching British troops. The period of significance for the Nelson Farm area is the day of the Running Battle, April 19, 1775. Further research may reveal additional areas of significance.

K. National Historic Landmark Status

NO Date: Theme:

L. World Heritage Site Status

NO Date:

M. List of Primary Contributing Features

Battle Road (LCS# 40170)
Stone wall network (LCS# 40181, 40206-209, 40230)
Josiah Nelson hop house foundation (LCS# 40027)
Daniel Brown site (LCS# 40256 & 40257)
John Nelson house (LCS# 06551) and barn (LCS# 12008)
Josiah Nelson site (LCS# 00920)
Thomas Nelson Jr. site (LCS# 12006)
Thomas Nelson Sr. (Tabitha) site (LCS# 40253)

Jacob Whittemore house (LCS# 00929)

Hargrove barn (contributing in character) (LCS# 40239)

Blacksmith shop site

N. List of Noncontributing Features

Battle Road Visitor Center and parking

Route 2A

Successional forest growth

V. Potential Ethnographic Value

- A. Ethnographic Survey has been conducted
 - 1. Yes: Ethnographic Values Identified:
 - a. Restricted Information
 - b. Unrestricted:
 - 2. No: An ethnographic study is currently underway for the Battle Road Unit of MIMA.
- B. List Groups potentially associated with landscape historically and/or currently:
- C. Description of known Ethnographic Value: Undetermined as this time.

VI. 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 Adequately Address Landscape ?
General Management Plan, 1989.	Focus is the entire park, but it does address some specific issues in the Nelson Farm area.	NO
Development Concept Plan		
Resource Management Plan		
Historic Resource Study		
Historical Base Map, 1985.	<i>The Scene of the Battle, 1775, Malcolm.</i> A very thorough historical background, but landscape feature information is limited. The report includes period plans for 1775 based somewhat on conjecture.	NO

Land Protection Plan

Special Resource Study

Administrative History, 1985.

NO

Cultural Landscape Report,
1993.

*A Management Plan to
Balance Cultural and Natural
Resources*, University of
Massachusetts. Addresses the
park as a whole but does
cover specific issues in the
Nelson Farm area at a
conceptual level.

NO

Archeological Collections
Management at Minute Man
National Historical Park,
1986.

This report offers a great
amount of information,
including maps, based on the
archeological findings. Some
of the results are based on a
certain amount of conjecture.

NO

C. Graphic Documentation

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

VII. Management

A. Management Category

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

B. Approved Treatment

	Completed?	Document 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 (highlight choice(s))

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

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**

VIII. Analysis and Evaluation

The Nelson Farm area, near the east 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 NPS manages and interprets Nelson Farm (approximately 115 acres) as part of the rural agricultural setting of the Running Battle. The Running Battle, the first exchange of shots in the war, began at Meriam's Corner at the west end of the Battle Road Unit on April 19, 1775.

In 1775, at the time of the battle, the Nelson Farm area was an intensely farmed area containing fields mostly owned by the Nelson family. The area was characterized by open fields defined by stone walls and traversed by Concord Road (Battle Road), a compacted soil road connecting Concord and Lexington. The agricultural fields consisted of a combination of tilled fields, pasture, meadow, orchards. Several houselots including three Nelson (Thomas Jr., Josiah, and Tabitha), Jacob Whittemore, and the Bull Tavern farmstead existed along Concord Road in this area. Members of the Nelson family occupied the area from the early 18th century into the 20th century.

Today, the area is characterized by successional forest, paved roads, and encroaching suburban development. Many features, character-defining to the period of significance, are extant within the Nelson Farm area, particularly in the western portion of the area. The west portion of the Battle Road has been restored and a vast portion of the historic stone wall network is extant, both along the road and within the adjacent areas. These adjacent areas however are now forested rather than agricultural. In addition the road and walls the foundations of the Thomas Jr. and Josiah Nelson houses are extant, the houselots still enclosed by stone walls. The Nelson hop house foundation is also extant. The John Nelson house and barn, both 19th-century structures, are extant and the house exhibits high architectural integrity. While they were not present at the time of the battle, they do contribute to the historic character of the area.

Primary Contributing Features

- Battle Road
- Stone wall network
- Josiah Nelson hop house foundation
- Daniel Brown site
- John Nelson house and barn (contributing in character)
- Josiah Nelson site
- Thomas Nelson Jr. site
- Thomas Nelson Sr. (Tabitha) site
- Jacob Whittemore house
- Hargrove barn (contributing in character)
- Blacksmith shop site

Contemporary features have been added and development has occurred that detracts from the historic character of the area. The most prominent encroachment in the area is Hanscom Air Force Base, at the area's north boundary. Base housing stands along the park boundary in close proximity to the

western portion of the Nelson area. In several places along the restored section of the Battle Road, the base development is in view from the Battle Road. In addition, a paved road, Airport Road, has been added in the eastern portion of the Nelson area. Also in the eastern portion, two contemporary homes exist, accessed from Airport Road. The Battle Road Visitor Center and parking have been constructed within the land enclosed by the Battle Road and Route 2A. While the visitor center and its associated development greatly contrast with the historic character of the area, they are well-screened from the restored section of the Battle Road. The forest growth, while it has destroyed the area's historically open character, served as an effective screen, blocking contemporary development from the remaining historic features.

List of Noncontributing Features

- Battle Road Visitor Center and parking
- Route 2A
- Contemporary homes (2)
- Successional forest growth

The overall character of the Nelson Farm area has changed drastically since 1775. Historically, the area had a very open agricultural setting characterized by fields and orchards defined by stone walls and at least four houselots scattered along the Battle Road. Many features character-defining to 1775 are extant. However, the successional forest growth that has overgrown the area has changed the Battle Road and its surroundings from a very open agricultural character to very wooded enclosed setting.

IX. Bibliography

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

X. Supplemental Information



Figure 4: Views to Hanscom Air Force Base from Nelson Road (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 5: Nelson Road, restored section of Battle Road (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 6: Marrett Road, abandoned section of Battle Road (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 7: Airport Road (OCLP, 1995).

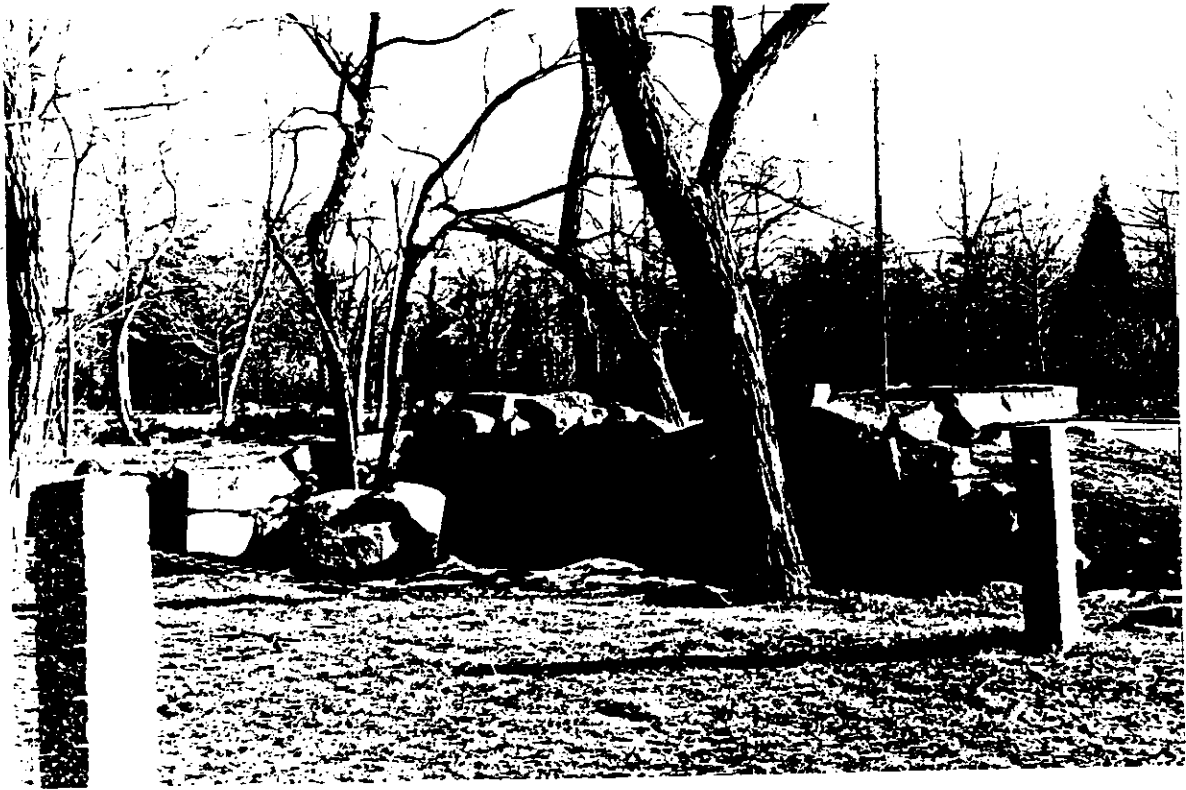


Figure 8: Josiah Nelson hop house foundation (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 9: John Nelson House (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 10: John Nelson Barn (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 11: Josiah Nelson site (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 12: Josiah Nelson House, before 1908 (SPNEA).



Figure 13: Thomas Nelson Jr. site (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 14: Jacob Whittemore House (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 15: Hargrove barn (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 16: Field south of Whittemore house and site of blacksmith shop (OCLP, 1995).

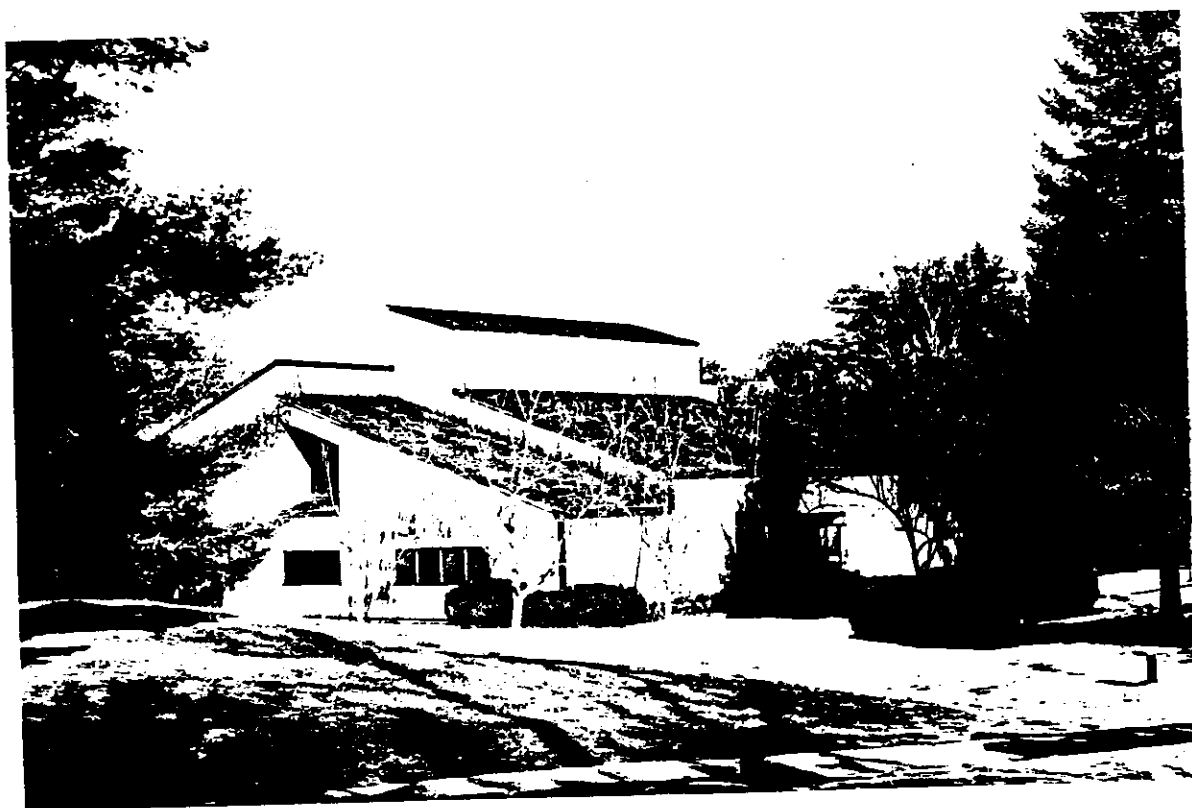


Figure 17: Battle Road Visitor Center (OCLP, 1995).



Figure 18: Battle Road Visitor Center parking area (OCLP, 1995).