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Restoring Landscape Experience: Research & New Design for the Battlefield Landscape of Minute Man National Historic Park

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RESTORING LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCE:

Research & New Design for the Battlefield Landscape of Minute Man National Historical Park
“We are never prepared to believe that our ancestors lifted large stones or built thick walls... How can their work be so visible and permanent and themselves so transient? When I see a stone which it must have taken many yoke of oxen to move, lying in a bank wall...I am curiously surprised, because it suggests an energy and force of which we have no memorials.”

-Henry David Thoreau
I would like to extend a big thank you to Ethan Carr for all his time, input and support throughout this process.

I would also like to thank Jane Thurber for her interest, insight and assistance in the design process. And thank you both for a wonderful, though challenging, experience!

Additionally, I would like to thank Margie Coffin Brown for her time and resources. It was valuable to have discussions with you, and then to go to the park, & drive around to different sites to learn more about the Park & gain more insight to some of the challenges.
RESTORING LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCE:
Research & New Design for the Battlefield Landscape of Minute Man National Historical Park

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Abstract
Introduction
Cultural Landscapes & Battlefield Interpretation
Cultural Landscapes
Management Practices
National Historical Parks: Case Studies
   Valley Forge National Historical Park: King of Prussia, PA
   Morristown National Historical Park: Morristown, NJ
National Battlefield Parks: Case Studies
   Manassas National Battlefield Park: Manassas, VA
   Cowpens National Battlefield Park: Gaffney, SC
Minute Man National Historical Park
   Literature
   Pre-Park Landuse History
   April 19, 1775: Shot Heard 'Round the World
   Pre-Park: Suburban Encroachment
   Early Park Development
   Minute Man Today: Park Challenges
1775 Battle Landscape
   Importance of Stone: Walls, Outcrops & Designed Interventions
      Let the Stones Tell the Story
   Methods
   Design
   References
ABSTRACT

This project looked critically at the landscape design of three specific battle locations located in Minute Man National Historical Park: Meriam’s Corner (West Entrance), Paul Revere Capture Site, and Parker’s Revenge (East Main Entrance). The landscape re-designs address three specific goals:

1. Make the landscape central to the visitor experience.
2. Enhance the interpretation of the 1775 landscape of specific sites too often overlooked or passed by.
3. Transform the overall experience of the park through limited interventions at specific sites.

The landscape at Minute Man National Historical Park is at present not conveying its historic significance or landscape character that caused the Battle of April 19, 1775 to occur in this landscape. These goals hope to enhance and restore the 1775 landscape character at Minute Man while improving the overall visitor experience.
INTRODUCTION

This design looks specifically at the historic cultural battlefield landscape of Minute Man National Historical Park.

Minute Man National Historical Park’s Battle Road unit is located sixteen miles northwest of Boston, in the eastern Massachusetts towns of Concord, Lincoln and Lexington. The Battle Road Unit is a linear unit of nearly eight hundred acres, which links Meriam’s Corner in Concord to Fiske Hill in Lexington. The park is responsible for maintaining the first four miles of the historic Battle Road Unit through which the British Regulars fled under colonial fire on April 19, 1775 signifying the start of the American Revolutionary War. The 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord, which can be argued as one of the most notable events in American history, did not take place on a defined battlefield but along a roadway, parts of which are heavily used to this day.

A connected network of redesigned landscapes at Minute Man will create a powerful interpretive tool, and provide a narrative to explain the history within the landscape. The restoration and rehabilitation of key moments in the park landscape, together with a reconsideration of how these places are linked and how visitors arrive at the park and move through the historic Battle Road corridor, can be an effective approach to improving the overall perception of the historical significance of the battlefield landscape of Minute Man NHP.

This master’s project addresses what I have identified as a principal challenge for this National Historical Park, considering the approaching 250th anniversary of the events of 1775: enhancing the overall experience and conveying the significance of the battlefield landscape for all visitors to the park. Through analysis mapping, three specific locations along the Battle Road corridor emerged as significant, all of which were crucial to the battle, but presently experience interpretive challenges. The significant battle locations along the Battle Road Unit, which will be examined are Parker’s Revenge (East Main Entrance), Paul Revere Capture Site, and Meriam’s Corner (west entrance). Each individual location is significant as a place in the landscape, and each has potential to enhance visitor experience and awareness of the events that transpired.

When expressed together – as a unit – they effectively communicate the overall series of events that took place throughout the day of April 19, 1775. However, these critical locations
Through a series of short and extended trails, visitors traverse key areas along the historic battlefield. The project intends to create new paths and gathering moments in these critical landscapes. The design proposal which will better connect people to the history rooted landscape network of the critical battle moments, connected designs. This will assist in creating a complete experience of the park landscape, are critical cues to provide visitors with a complete experience of the park landscape while conveying that one has entered a new place. Therefore, it is necessary that this master’s project looks closer at the current circulation patterns and entry and arrival areas. These aspects of park design, are critical cues to provide visitors with a complete experience of the park landscape while conveying that one has entered a new place.

The project intends to better connect these three identified significant battle locations to each other than providing visitors the ability to regard the Battle Road Unit as a series of critical battle moments or as a unit. This project reveals the Park’s integrity, hopefully enables the community to understand and better relate to the Battle of April 19, 1775, which is also an important investment and most importantly appreciation for this important landscape.

Cultural Landscapes & Battlefield Interpretation

Cultural landscapes are landscapes that have been influenced or shaped by human interaction; they are a direct expression of either a collective or individual identity. The term cultural landscape is broadly understood to have a variety of meanings and associations. This thesis project understands and explores the role of cultural landscapes as historic landscapes commemorating or associated with a specific event, person, period or date. This project intends to examine the challenges faced with interpretation; attempting to connect people to a past event while in the present context.

Cultural landscapes provide important insights into our country’s past. When properly maintained and interpreted, they can continue to provide educational opportunities allowing communities to better understand and appreciate origins and collective identities. The Cultural Landscape Foundation argues that it is necessary for the ongoing care and interpretation of these sites to improve quality of life while “deepening a sense of place and identity for future generations” (CLF, 2001-06).

Minute Man National Historical Park is located sixteen miles northwest of Boston involving community involvement and extends through the eastern Massachusetts towns of Concord, Lincoln and Lexington. This section of the larger national park is nearly 800 acres, and links Meriam’s Corner in Concord to Fiske Hill in Lexington. This portion of the park includes sections of what became known as Battle Road, the colonial road along which British Regulars fled under colonial fire on April 19, 1775. The battle continued all day, with a series of major skirmishes along the road to Boston, signifying the start of the American Revolutionary War. The park maintains the Battle Road Unit, which extends 9.2 miles through Concord, Lincoln and Lexington. Much of the historic route today lies beneath State Highway 2A, which is a heavily used road in what is today a densely suburban landscape. The increased growth of suburban communities emerged during the 1950s with the rise of post-World War II economic expansion. The suburban sprawl directly impacted the creation of Minute Man National Historical Park as a National Park. The decrease in agricultural jobs throughout the Concord, Lincoln and Lexington area, during this period led to the consolidation of farming onto smaller acreage, thereby providing excess land for residential and roadway construction (Smith, 2005). The available space created the desire for individual homes outside of the cities, in this case Boston, which generated a rapid increase in the construction of new homes which consumed every bit of available space left, minimizing the sizes of local farms. The construction of the Airforce Base triggered the realization to set preserve this historic landscape and it was with this that created the establishment of the park in 1975.
The rapid expansion and development of the battlefield landscape of Minute Man National Historical Park ensures that this area remains preserved and protected for future generations. The landscape of Minute Man and its surrounding area has evolved over time, and many of the features that were characteristic of 1775 are gone or otherwise not apparent.

As with other battlefield landscapes in suburban situations, it can be difficult for visitors to fully appreciate the significance of events that took place there 250 years ago. Despite the excellent efforts and programs of park interpreters, due to the suburban influences of heavy vehicular traffic on Route 2A, limited pedestrian access in some areas, and circulation patterns tending towards vehicles, Minute Man National Historic Park struggles in effectively conveying the park as a battlefield landscape. The lack of a clearly defined entrance in the densely populated suburban neighborhood does not signify to the community the importance of events that took place there. The suburban sprawl of the Concord, Lincoln and Lexington area jeopardizes the historical integrity and interpretation of the battlefield landscape inherent in the park. Poor pedestrian opportunities, the park struggles to fully appreciate the significance of events that took place at Minute Man, despite the dramatic and violent events that once took place at Minute Man. The Park is surrounded by development and heavy commercial traffic, leaving visitors to not make this connection.

The suburban sprawl of the Concord, Lincoln and Lexington area jeopardizes the historical integrity of the Park. The proximity to the communities, nestled in suburbia, makes it apparent that the historic integrity and interpretation of the battlefield landscape is overlooked. The historic landscape surrounded by modern suburbia poses some challenges for the Park: degradation due to changes in the visual quality of the surroundings, the construction of Hanscom Airforce Base, loss of historic structures, and decline in park visitation by the local community, and effectively interpreting and conveying the historic significance (Steinitz, 1980).

As a result, often visitors do not perceive the full significance of the landscape, despite the best efforts of the park’s interpretive planning. At present Minute Man faces a disconnect between the extensive literary and famous writers, such as Emerson that have written about the Park and its deep history to the actual layout and interpretive programming utilized at Minute Man today. Due to suburban influences, poor circulation tending towards heavy vehicular traffic and limited pedestrian opportunities, the park struggles to effectively interpret this landscape as a battlefield. This limits the overall visitor experience and provides little opportunity for meaningful appreciation of this extraordinary battlefield landscape. Despite the dramatic and violent events that once took place at Minute Man, the Park is surrounded by development and heavy commercial traffic, leaving visitors to not make this connection.

The proposed design intends to create a network of trails creating a more connected and easily accessible circulation pattern through the visitor landscape experience. Visitors cannot easily get to the separate locations and are forced to travel in their vehicles; this limits the experience of the battlefield landscape and isolates key locations rather than providing visitors the ability to regard the Battle Road Unit as a series of critical battle moments.

It is therefore desirable that Minute Man National Historical Park take a closer look at the current circulation patterns, entrances, and interpretive use of the landscape. These aspects of park design are critical cues to provide visitors with a complete experience of the park landscape while conveying the significance of the history. This design proposes to examine the main entrance and visitor’s center to provide the park with a clear sense of arrival and to reorient visitors onto Battle Road. The project also examines redesigns for Parker’s Revenge and Meriam’s Corner (west entrance), all of which were sites of significant battles or skirmishes occurred. When these landscape locations are expressed together they effectively communicate the overall series of events that took place throughout the day of April 19. However, due to the parks location, nestled in a suburban neighborhood, and the tendency towards vehicular circulation as the primary mode of transportation, these critical locations are interpreted as individual parts along an undefined Battle Road unit rather than a whole. This results in a limited

O’CONNOR | 17
Battle Road Unit. The newly designed network will allow for visitors to traverse key areas along this battlefield landscape. Through a series of short and extended trails visitors will be provided with a glimpse into the events of April 19, 1775 and be able to experience what it was like for the soldiers and civilians alike. Thus, the overall goal of this project is to make sure the park landscape is understood as a battlefield landscape to create a more meaningful landscape experience for visitors through carefully designed landscape interventions.

Now more than ever there is a need to maintain cultural landscapes for their historical significance. As time continues to move further away from these important historic dates, it becomes difficult for people to value a landscape when they are detached from its history. Important questions worth asking are: how do you ensure lasting appreciation or value in these historic landscapes that people are so far removed from? How do you connect one to landscape history?
Carl Ortwin Sauer, is a cultural geographer who coined the term ‘cultural landscape.’ His most crucial point in defining landscape:

"Landscape is a cultural entity, something human crafted, a modification of nature rather than a natural environment. Landscape is ‘cultural landscape.’ The cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a cultural group. Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape the result (Wylie, 2007)."

Sauer argued that “people had as great an effect on the physical environment as it had upon them (Riesenweber, 2008), the two are thus not apart but work to influence and inform one another. The Secretary of the interior’s guidelines of a cultural landscape is "a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values (Riesenweber, 2008)."

The Cultural Landscape Foundation explains that a cultural landscape can have a variety of associations such as a tiny homestead, grand estate, industrial site, park, garden, cemetery and so forth. Though these are all different the Foundation explains that “collectively, cultural landscapes are works of art, narratives of culture and expressions of regional identity” (CLF, 2001-06).

Buggey and Mitchell characterize cultural landscapes by patterns and interactions. Their concept of cultural landscapes thus recognizes that many human relationships – religious, artistic, spiritual, and cultural – are not primarily reflected in material evidences but rather are intangible qualities associated with the landscape (Buggey and Mitchell, 2008).

According to the National Park Service, NPS, a cultural landscape is a "geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values" (NPS, Cultural Landscapes). The NPS further notes that there are four, non-mutually exclusive, types of cultural landscapes: Historic Site, Historic Designed Landscape, Historic Vernacular Landscape and Ethnographic Landscape. A historic site is a landscape "significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person," whereas a historic designed landscape is recognized "as a design or work of art; was consciously designed and laid out
either by a master gardener, landscape architect, or horticulturist to a design principle, or by an owner or other amateur according to a recognized style or tradition.” An historic vernacular landscape is one in which “whose use, construction, or physical layout reflects endemics traditions, customs, beliefs, or values.” in which the expression of cultural values, social behavior, and individual actions over time is manifested in physical features and materials...in which the cultural features reflect the customs and everyday lives of people.” The NPS lastly defines the ethnographic landscape as “a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources.” (NPS, Cultural Landscapes) Historic landscapes are therefore one of the types of cultural landscapes, which is also the category that Minute Man National Historical Park falls under. According to the National Park Service, NPS, historic landscapes are composed of a variety of ‘character-defining features’ that individually or collectively contribute to the evolution of the landscape’s appearance over time. The NPS notes that “most historic properties have a cultural landscape component that is integral to the significance of the resource” (Birnbaum, 1994). The Secretary of the Interior’s standards defines preservation as “the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction” (Riesenweber, 2008). Riesenweber states that preservation is focused on visible material things that survive from the past and with maintaining in the present keep their appearance in the past. The preservation of buildings is static, but the preservation of landscapes is fluid. Land changes over time, which is what many “geographers new emphasize in examining landscapes.” The preservation of landscapes is there for rather difficult to capture as they are not static but fluid and ever changing (Ibid, 2008). Preservation constructs a story of the past through the lens of the present. The narratives of historic preservation constructs and materializes narratives, which shape our view of the past. Landscapes are central to our personal and collective identities as they create and reinforce self-images and identity structures (Riesenweber, 2008). Landscapes are central to our personal and collective identities as they create and reinforce self-images and value structures (Riesenweber, 2008).
for the park (NPS, 1988). This general management plan for the park outlines four basic strategies that will ensure the “protection of the park’s significant cultural resources, provide better opportunities for visitor understanding of the events of April 19, 1775 and provide facilities needed for visitors to appreciate the park’s unique resources” (Ibid, 1988). This plan was created in response to State Route 2A, which when the park was established it was assumed that this major road could be realigned, however, public controversy blocked the realignment, which has been a park challenge since. This plan outlines the “encroaching development on all sides of the Battle Road corridor is limiting option for preserving the 18th-century character of Minute Man National Historical Park” (Ibid, 1988).

In 2012, The NPS created a General Management Plan Amendment/ Environmental Assessment Community Workshop at Minute Man National Historical Park. This GMP describes three alternatives for the management of the Battle Road Unit, while describing the environment that would be affected by the alternatives and the environmental consequences of these alternatives (NPS, 2012). The “purpose of this action is to amend the management plan for the Battle Road Unit by developing strategies to enhance public use, enjoyment and stewardship while managing traffic and development that threaten resources and the visitor experience” (Ibid, 2012).

The planning issues identified through analysis of available “resource information, and preliminary internal and public scoping, which include impacts from roads and impaired water quality.” In this plan it was recommended that the park vegetation is “under assault from invasive plants, which have persisted and increased in abundance and distribution over the years” (Ibid, 2009). Along with these, the Natural Resource Assessment found other threats to the park include “impacts from roads and impaired water quality.”

Another document created by the NPS at Minute Man National Historical Park is, A Management Plan to Balance Cultural and Natural Resources: The Minute Man National Historical Park Case Study. According to this plan, “the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance during a particular historic period” (Ibid, 2005). An assessment established in, The Cultural Landscape Report, establishes that the historical data or trends and was presented in a GIS framework” (Ibid, 2009). According to the data presented in the Resource Assessment, most of the natural resources at MIMA appear to be in less than desirable condition” (Ibid, 2009). The park that established that the “urban lands – roads and residential housing – occupy a considerable portion of the park and these areas may be detracting from the natural resources and cultural atmosphere of MIMA” (Ibid, 2009).

The Cultural Landscape Report for Battle Road Unit, “identifies and documents landscape characteristics and features of the 1775 battleground landscape, as well as significant landscape features that have been modified over time” (Ibid, 2005). An assessment established in, The Cultural Landscape Report, establishes that the “protection of the park’s significant natural resources: landscape history, running battle landscape, as well as significant landscape features” (Gavrin, 1993). Management guidelines were developed in this management plan and were based on the degree of existing historic character (Ibid, 1993).
The goal of implementing the Corridor Management Plan will yield Partnership, Preservation, Promotion and Pride. The Plan provides a guide for “preserving and promoting the Byway while recognizing that development pressures and opportunities exist in close proximity to the Byway’s esteemed resources” (Ibid, 2011). This Plan was created “through input from community members, this corridor management plan proposes strategies to manage transportation, land use, and tourism along the Byway” (Ibid, 2011). According to The Battle Road Scenic Byway: Road Map, the designation is “intended to recognize, protect and enhance its unique resources” (MAPC, 2011). This Plan was created “through input from community members, this corridor management plan proposes strategies to manage transportation, land use, and tourism along the Byway” (Ibid, 2011).

Buggey and Mitchell suggest, successful conservation of cultural landscapes recognize that landscapes are living places subject to change. Historic landscapes with the most integrity can retain its historic landscape character, cultural traditions and economic viability while allowing landscape change to occur (Ibid, 2008). Therefore, it is important that the management of these places acknowledges these places as living landscapes. Buggey and Mitchell argue that one way to ensure proper management of historic landscapes would be to “develop some type of community-based governance for decision making is also a key ingredient for the success and sustainability of conservation” (Ibid, 2008).

In 1991, a Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan was initiated at Minute Man by the NPS and the University of Massachusetts, which addressed these concepts devised by Buggey and Mitchell. This plan provided the park with “a case study in cultural landscape management for the National Park Service in examining historic communities and the public” (Gavrin, 1993), which laid out the plan in two phases. Phase I of the plan, established in the Treatment Plan, “initiated the compilation of a digital spatial data base and the assessment of land suitable for agricultural reintroduction” (Ibid, 1993). This concept of agricultural reintroduction refers “to the process of changing some of the Park landscape from forest back to fields, which is relevant to Minute Man as shown by historical research. The research recorded in phase I suggests that the landscape was heavily farmed the 1650s until the early 1900s (Ibid, 1993). The University and Park Service continued developing ideas and concepts laid out in this plan and established A Management Plan to Balance Cultural and Natural Resources. Written in the Management Plan to Balance Cultural and Natural Resources: The Minute Man National Historical Park Case Study, one of the Park’s objective is to “provide linkages with the surrounding communities for agricultural use, conservation, and opportunities for recreational walking trails” (Ibid, 1993). The National Park Service intends to "use agricultural reintroduction as a tool to transform the landscape from forest to farm, soil types and capabilities, field size, the type of farming should be addressed" (Ibid, 1993). To assist with the Park’s interpretation of the 1775 Battle, Minute Man is reintroducing modern farming techniques to assist with the interpretation of the battle and the ensuing 200 years of continuity of this agricultural land use history and identified areas suitable to agricultural reintroduction (Ibid, 1993). This report identified fields and ranked them as most suitable, suitable and least suitable. It is important that the management of the park understand the “agricultural landscape of the time, the park must establish an organizational capability, field size, the type of farming should be addressed” (Ibid, 1993). To assist with the Park’s interpretation of the 1775 Battle, Minute Man is reintroducing modern farming techniques to assist with the interpretation of the battle and the ensuing 200 years of continuity of this agricultural land use history and identified areas suitable to agricultural reintroduction (Ibid, 1993). 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legislation and provides basic guidance for planning and management decisions” (NPS, 2015). According to the Long-Range Interpretive Plan, a park is created around a purpose statement, which explains the specific reasoning for the Park’s existence. The Minute Man National Historical Park 2014 Foundation Document contains the following purpose statement:

“The purpose of Minute Man National Historical Park is to preserve and interpret the significant historic structures and landscapes associated with the opening of the American Revolution which lie along the route of battle of April 19, 1775, and to foster understanding of the events, causes, and consequences of the American Revolution. Another purpose of Minute Man National Historical Park is to preserve and interpret The Wayside, home of major 19th-century American authors” (Ibid, 2015).

The purpose statement helps to explain the Park’s significance. Established in the Long-Range Interpretive Plan, the Park’s significance provides specific rationale for national recognition by identifying the distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values located within the park boundaries (Ibid, 2015). The purpose statement helps to explain the Park’s significance. Established in the Long-Range Interpretive Plan, the Park’s significance provides specific rationale for national recognition by identifying the distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values located within the park boundaries (Ibid, 2015).

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan identified a series of interpretive themes to be utilized as organizational tools for planning and programming and to help the park meet its management goals. It is established in the Long-Range Interpretive Plan that the identified interpretive themes are “derived from and capture the essence of park purpose, park significance, resources and values...while serving to focus the development of visitor experience, services and programming” (Ibid, 2015). The key interpretive themes established in the Plan are: Lexington and Concord: Opening Battles of the American Revolution, The “Embattled Farmers” Defend Their Way of Life, April 19, 1775 in Memory – Shaping an American Identity and The Wayside and the Legacy of the American Revolution (Ibid, 2015). The Plan then establishes the challenges and issues affecting the interpretation at Minute Man National Historical Park. The challenges are listed in the Plan as: limited interior meeting space, upgrade Minute Man Visitor Center, Intrusions on the historic scene, orientation, way-finding and connections, Common knowledge and popular culture, the challenge of context, Multiple perspectives, Limited staffing and Missing audiences (Ibid, 2015).

In 2005 the National Park Service with help from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation compiled the Cultural Landscape Report for the Battle Road Unit at Minute Man National Historical Park. This undertaking by the Park was the “last opportunity to preserve and regain a meaningful fragment of the historic Battle Road landscape, compromised by post WWII suburban sprawl” (Smith, 2005). Outlined in this report are the park’s existing conditions comprised with an analysis and evaluation of the park design; what is working well and what are problematic design challenges that the park is facing? The Cultural Landscape Report states that the park’s current relationship with Route 2A is "threatening" its future. It notes that the Park’s "present failure to plan regionally for local and through traffic lies at the park’s most serious problems” (Smith, 2005). According to a 2002 traffic analysis prepared by the park, Route 2A is already operating at approximately fifty-percent above its optimal traffic volume for the desired visitor experience and visitor safety” (Smith, 2005).
Minute Man National Historical Park is bisected by a major traffic corridor, Route 2A, that runs the entire length of the park. It is useful to examine similar battlefield parks that have a major road either bisecting the park as well or near the park. Additionally, it is important to focus on other parks interpreting the American Revolutionary War, which are also nestled in a suburban neighborhood where the park boundaries confront urbanization.

**Valley Forge National Historical Park**

*King of Prussia, PA*

Valley Forge National Historical Park is another recognized National Historical Park interpreting the Revolutionary war. The landscape of the park setting is site of the 1777-78-winter encampment of the Continental Army under the command of George Washington (NPS, 2016). When the Continental Army left the encampment area they left behind a scene of devastation: “the once productive farms in the vicinity were destitute of vegetation, cattle and horses on area farms requisitioned by the army, all trees cut down in nearby forests and the timber and fence posts used to construct the huts and pickets for the army” (Unrau, 1984).

The Park’s purpose is “to educate and inform present and future generations about the sacrifices and achievements of General George Washington and the Continental Army at Valley Forge, and the people, events, and legacy of the American Revolution” (NPS, 2011).

The location of Valley Forge National Historical Park is similar to the landscape of Minute Man NHP. Both Valley Forge and Minute Man NHPs are in highly urbanized areas that experience the challenges of connecting the local community to the park’s interpretive programming of historic periods. Valley Forge is nestled between the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I-76, to the south and the Benjamin Franklin Highway, Rt. 422, to the east. The Park is located 18 miles northwest of center city Philadelphia and is situated in rapidly growing Philadelphia suburbs.
Suburban arterial roadways cut through Valley Forge as well. The General Management Plan of the Park notes that these roads "serve as extensions of the local transportation network and carry large volumes of non-park related traffic," (NPS, 2007) which bisect the park each day.

The General Management Plan, GMP, for Valley Forge focused on the heavy traffic volumes through the park and proposed alternative to help mitigate this issue – it is necessary for the "management of the park as a whole to address issues related to the park itself as it is directly related to visitor experience, positive and negative" (Ibid, 2007). The immediate area surrounding the Park is "the most traffic-choked area in the state and causes daily conflicts in and around the park" (Ibid,2007). The population increase surrounding the park has "resulted in greater recreational pressure on the park," (Ibid, 2007) which is primarily how visitors interact with the park history.

The GMP, proposed "traffic calming on public roads, which would have a long-term, major, beneficial impact on the visitor experience as it help to reduce speeding and make pedestrian crossings easier" (Ibid, 2007). This plan also proposes to require a park fee, which they note will be unpopular but "would provide funding for reinvestment in resource protection and enhanced visitor services and experiences, resulting in a long-term, major, beneficial impact to the visitor experience" (Ibid, 2007).

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan was created by the Park staff to assist with the overall visitor experience and to ensure visitors have a meaningful experience. The plan created interpretive zones and locations, where the park "identified six key locations within the park that were the sites of important historical activities during the encampment" (NPS, 2011). These six zones are intended "to support key interpretive themes and the locations were developed to support programming and as key stops on any guided or self-guided tour of the park" (Ibid, 2011). The plan notes that "a sound, consistent message along the path of movement that provides a "visual message for visitors to trail-blaze the route" (Ibid, 2007). The plan further notes that there is no "coherent hierarchy or family of sign types" that communicate to visitors how to traverse between each location. The Plan notes that majority of the signs "suffer from neglect and other problems and causes daily conflicts in and around the park sites" (Ibid, 2007).

The General Management Plan also outlines the importance on resource protection and enhanced visitor services and experiences, resulting in a long-term, major, beneficial impact on the visitor experience (Ibid, 2007). The GMP also outlines the importance on resource protection and enhanced visitor services and experiences, resulting in a long-term, major, beneficial impact on the visitor experience (Ibid, 2007). The GMP notes that these roads "serve as extensions of the local transportation network and carry large volumes of non-park related traffic," (NPS, 2007) which bisect the park each day.

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan was created by the Park staff to assist with the overall visitor experience and to ensure visitors have a meaningful experience. The plan created interpretive zones and locations, where the park "identified six key locations within the park that were the sites of important historical activities during the winter encampment of the Continental army during December of 1779 to June 1780 (NPS, 2018).

For another park to examine is Washington's Headquarters Museum located in Morristown, New Jersey. This park interprets Washington's stay at the Ford Mansion house located in Morristown during the winter encampment of the Continental army encampment during December of 1779 to June 1780 (NPS, 2018). General Washington used the Ford family mansion as his headquarters during the winter months of the Continental Army encampment of the American Revolutionary War.

The historical park is situated in a highly developed suburban landscape, which faces similar interpretive challenges to those faced at Minute Man NHP. With two roads and a major highway surrounding the park and the fact that the historical park is a mansion house located in a neighborhood, means that it is not visually as noticeable or recognizable as having historical significance. The Ford Mansion is one historic site of four non-contiguous sites, all part of the Morristown NHS. According to the Morristown Long Range Interpretive Plan, the park faces severe challenges getting visitors between the different park locations due to heavy traffic and congestion of the Interstate roads, I-287, Route 202. The Plan notes that "there is no single starting point for an exploration of the various sites and no coherent, organized way of communicating a complete message about the park" (NPS, 2007).

Another park to examine is Washington's Headquarters Museum located in Morristown, NJ// Ford Mansion, Morristown, NJ. Another park to examine is Washington's Headquarters Museum located in Morristown, NJ. This park interprets Washington's stay at the Ford Mansion house located in Morristown during the winter encampment of the Continental army during December of 1779 to June 1780 (NPS, 2018). General Washington used the Ford family mansion as his headquarters during the winter months of the Continental Army encampment of the American Revolutionary War.
The Historical Park is facing the same problems Minute Man is faced with, how to "make the site more inviting to local residents through landscape design elements" (Ibid, 2007). There is a need to reconnect the historic site, Washington’s Headquarters, to the local community. The proposed plan intends to "add waysides along the grounds of the Ford Mansion to interpret the historic scene for strolling residents and visitors, while providing outdoor exhibits for important story access" (Ibid, 2007). The intention is to hopefully place the park in the context with the American Revolution while providing visitors with the explanation of what happened at the individual locations to understand the full picture of what occurred at Morristown.
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARKS: Case Studies

This proposal defines the cultural landscape and examines it as an historic site. The relationship to a specific date in history and the landscape as a battle site are integral components that help to define this landscape as a culturally significant one. Minute Man National Historical Park is a battlefield landscape. It is important to evaluate and look at how other battlefield landscapes are operating. What do their Interpretive Plans look like and how are they actively working to connect people to the battlefield landscapes of the parks? Minute Man National Historical Park is a battlefield landscape that commemorates the first battle fought in the American Revolutionary War. Although other battlefield landscapes are also cultural landscapes, this proposal will only examine other American Revolutionary Battlefield Landscapes, like Minute Man NHP. Revolutionary Battlefield landscapes are a sub group of cultural historic landscapes and the park examples describe below face similar challenges to Minute Man National Historic Park.

Manassas National Battlefield Park
Manassas, VA

Manassas National Battlefield Park, interprets two battles fought at separate times during the American Civil War between the Confederate and Union troops. The battlefield park is significant in that it is one of only a few Civil War parks that include “majority of the actual battlefield areas where troops formed, fought and died – provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the features that shaped the two battles” (NPS, 2008). The first Battle of Manassas signified to the divided nation that this would not be a quick war, and this battle was critical in holding off Union troops from capturing Richmond, the confederate capitol. The second Battle of Manassas marked another Confederate victory and “opened the way for the south’s first invasion of the north” (Second Bull Run, 2015). As described in the General Management Plan of Manassas National
Manassas National Battlefield Park is located in the events of the two battles” (NPS, 2017). The park is bisected by a two major highways, Lee Highway, US Route 29 and Sudley Road, VA Route 234. Heavy traffic flows, of commuter and truck traffic, “create a safety problem and encroach on the visitor experience” (General Management Plan, 2008). As a result, Manassas National Battlefield Park underwent an update of the General Management Plan to address these issues and to assist with improving visitor experience and interpretation of the battles. The Park provides a series of design alternatives to enhance visitor experience at Manassas. Most notable, found in each alternative, was a proposal for the construction of a Battlefield Bypass Connector road. The connector road would help to “minimize the impacts of traffic congestion and to enhance the visitor experience on the battlefield” (General Management Plan, 2008). The portions of the roads throughout the park would then fall under the jurisdiction of the NPS, with reduced traffic speeds and narrower roads with bike lanes. New entrance facilities would be placed at either end of the park, marking the entrance and fee area into the park. New interpretive displays and view corridors would be designed along the road to better explain and “enhance visitor understanding of key battle events” (General Management Plan, 2008). In addition, the National Park Service is proposing to establish vegetative buffers and newly designed visitor areas, which are key sequential interpretive sites, to block adjacent development (General Management Plan, 2008). It is important to understand and examine how this park is approaching battlefield interpretation, as the challenges faced at Manassas National Battlefield Park are similar to those faced at Minute Man National Historical Park. Gaining an understanding of what is working well with battlefield landscape interpretive design at Manassas, can assist with the innovative design interventions at Minute Man and those same principles can be applied to the interpretive programming of the battlefield landscape.

Cowpens National Battlefield Park
Gaffney, SC

Cowpens National Battlefield, located in South Carolina, interprets the battle fought between the British and the Patriots towards the latter half of the American Revolution, which took place in the countryside. The term “Cowpens” refers to the colonial land management practices of open-range stock grazing and it was along one of these cleared areas where the battle was fought (NPS, April 2015). The Patriot victory over the British Regulars is understood as the turning point for the war waging in the South (Ibid, April 2015). The battle between the colonists and the British regulars fought the Battle of Cowpens along a long dirt road, connecting to the Green River and eventually extending into North Carolina, known today as Green River Road (NPS, The Green River Road, 2015). This road was highly important in the colonial period as it connected the backcountry woods of South Carolina to other market and wagon roads, making it possible to trade goods. During the war this major thoroughfare was utilized by the soldiers to move their armies and camp alongside in preparation for an attack. On January 17, both armies launched an attack and deployed their armies along the Green River Road (Ibid, 2015). The Patriots held their ground and were able to push the British troops west toward the Whitemouth Creek, even driving them to flee off River Road and into North Carolina (Ibid, 2015).

In 1929 United States Congress recognized the importance of this landscape and created Cowpens National Battlefield Site on one acre of land. In 1972 Congress purchased an additional 845 acres, which included the entire battlefield with a buffer zone around it to allow for visitors and the name was changed to Cowpens National Battlefield (NPS, Battlefield Restoration, 2015). During this time a
park management plan was developed to protect scenic integrity and to "restore the battlefield to its appearance in 1781" for current and future generations (Battlefield Restoration, 2015). In the Park’s Master Plan, a natural vegetation restoration outline was developed to advocate for the removal of invasive tree and plant species, which utilized primary sources from the soldiers who fought in the Battle. To ensure accurate battlefield restoration efforts, the Park Managers aligned with a conservation foundation for "research, manpower and consultation about best restoration practices" (Ibid, 2015). With this extensive management plan, the park successfully removed invasive and early successional trees and dense underbrush and replaced all with native grasses. The park follows this ongoing restoration guideline that helps to restore certain key elements of the battlefield (Ibid, 2015).

In addition to the Park’s extensive restoration plan, the park has a wide-ranging history of interpretive programming to develop the interpretation of the Battle of Cowpens and to better connect visitors directly to the battlefield landscape laid out in chapter six of Cowpens Administrative History. This chapter provides a detailed explanation of the many interpretive tools the park has utilized since its inception. Some of the effective examples are audio tours. There are two trail loops at the park, one hiking and the other car, which bring people through battle lines and marked with interpretative signage and statues to connect people to the long-fought battle. In addition, the park developed two audio trail loops, one for vehicular transportation and the other for pedestrians on the hiking trails. The Park partnered with local universities and colleges to help with the research and audio script for the interpretive loops (NPS, 2002).

Under the interpretive initiative, the park expanded its visitor center to include exhibits and educational programming. The Park holds annual events, in addition to its many interpretive programming, to maintain continued visitation. The Battlefield Restoration Plan and the Interpretive programming at Cowpens National Battlefield effectively help to connect people to the 1781 landscape and battlefield and more than anything to the history of the area. Examination of each of the battlefield sites mentioned above is required, as it will help to form an understanding of how parks respond to similar pressures.
MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS: Case Studies

Vietnam War Memorial
Washington D.C.

Commemorates Soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War.

Paid attention to the use of words and interaction the engraved letters allow. Actively engages visitors.
Franklin Court “Ghost” House  Philadelphia, PA

The site consists of the archaeological remains of Benjamin Franklin’s house, with the ‘ghost’ reconstruction of what his house was like.

Most important for its representation of something no longer in existence.

Gebran Tueni Memorial  Beirut, Lebanon

The goal of this memorial was to recognize a notable journalist who was assassinated while attempting to create a public space in the Beirut. The linear design is intended to represent what he stood for - as well as connecting the city to its past and future.

The use of stones and engraved quotes and passages and stone seating were important and beautiful design features examined for design ideas.
Gordon Lederer Memorial
Croatia

Commemorates Croatian photographer assassinated by a sniper while filming soldiers in these hills.

This memorial frames a view in the landscape that is connected to the memorial & commemoration of this photographer. Path ends at a lovely resting place.

Shoes on the Danube
Budapest, Hungary

Commemorates Jewish civilians who were shot on this spot during WWII.

Another important memorial to consider in commemorating a tragic event. Helps to interpret a tragic event that occurred at the location while not being too explicit. Important to consider how to connect people to past tragic events.
MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Minute Man National Historical Park, MMNHP, is a good example of an historic battlefield landscape. This National Historical Park commemorates a specific date in history, April 19, 1775, as the start of the American Revolution. The current landscape of the park is the location of the first battle fought between the Minute Men and the British; well known for the ‘Shot heard around the World.’ Within the park’s boundaries three important sites emerge in the landscape, specifically Parker’s Revenge, Paul Revere Capture Site and Meriam’s Corner. These sites were either important battle locations where the Minute Men ambushed the British retreating to Boston or capture locations, where the colonialists were captured by the British. Below is a brief outline of the park’s history which provides an outline of events leading up to April 19, 1775, the date itself and events that took place afterwards to establish the park, concluding with the Park’s current conditions.

Due to the historical significance of Minute Man National Historical Park, where American democracy was born with the opening battles of the American Revolutionary War, there is extensive literature recorded on the battles fought and, on the park, itself. Some of the earliest writings about Minute Man National Historical Park date back to 1837 with the dedication of the Obelisk, one of the nation’s first war monuments, commemorating sixty years since the Battle fought the North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts. Ralph Waldo Emerson famously recited “Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world” (Emerson, 1837). These stanzas from Emerson’s poem, the Concord Hymn, would become the token phrase used to describe the American Revolution.

Another publication that addresses the historic significance of Minute Man is the Historic Resources Masterplan of Concord, Massachusetts. This report was put together by the Concord Historical

O’CONNOR | 49
Commission in 1995 and was updated in 2001. The Master Plan was created to "accelerate public interest in our historic resources, and to identify protection priorities for decision makers" (Concord Historical Commission, 2001). The stewardship of the historic richness abounds Concord and is "viewed by many, and recorded by history" (Ibid, 2001). There is a growing need in Concord to stimulate public interest in historic resources; the Master plan was created to fill this need, as an educational resource and as a resource reference – a "prioritization of historic resources, a plan of action for stewardship" (Ibid, 2001). Areas of Minute Man National Historical Park are identified as priority sites, such as Meriam's Corner and Bloody Angle. The plan identifies numerous sites of 'highest' priority historic resources which share connections to the American Revolution through protection of historic structures, landuse, and shared sense of past. Both the area in the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and Minute Man National Historical Park are characterized by rural agricultural land surrounded by more suburban areas. Two important corridors explained in the report are the Bay Circuit Trail and the Minuteman Bike Way. In addition to the historical significance, these areas share a great deal of recreational and heritage tourism opportunities. Both the National Heritage Area and Minute Man share significant interpretive goals. It is important to understand how both units can continue to complement each other and is integral to the design process.

Prior to human settlement in Concord and Lexington, the area surrounding Minute Man NHP was covered by ice a mile thick, this was a period of advance and retreat of glaciers; the last glaciation in Concord was the retreat of the Wisconsin, which left behind Concord as we know it today (Donahue, 2004). Brian Donahue thoroughly describes the glaciation cycles in his book, The Great Meadow, it is in this text where he explains that the glaciation periods helped to shape the landscape characteristics of Concord. The glacier left behind prime soils, a "raw mix of soil materials; sandy lands, rocky lands, and moist lands. The lay of those lands, the flow of water through them, the growth of forests and meadows upon them, their long cultivation by human inhabitants – all went to form a place with particular range of ecological opportunities and limits" (Ibid, 2004). During the glacial retreat, the frozen tundra slowly shrank, the glacial lakes drained away, all of which provided room for the forests to return. Donahue states that "in Concord, there was no land before history. Nature has included people since the dimly remembered days when the rocks were still wet" (Ibid, 2004). Long before the first settlers arrived at Plymouth, Concord was inhabited by Native American peoples. According to Donahue, the first people to settle in New England were the Paleoindians, "they persisted for thousands of years but underwent their culture by over-hunting their chief game" (Ibid, 2004). The next group of Indians, the Archaic Indians, sustained by broad-based foraging and horticultural practices. The Algonquin people fished, hunted, and raised crops. They engaged in active management of the landscape using fire to promote habitat for game and edible nuts and berries (Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2007). The Native Americans had an active role on the landscape, their "subsistence ways...reveal an intricate pattern of adaptation both to and of the landscape" (Donahue, 2004). Donahue notes that the Native Americans of New England "appear to have put in place a succession of cultural systems that in 1800 was possible for them to sustain this landscape for long periods of time" (Ibid, 2004). The arrival of Europeans beginning in the 1600's brought the arrival of epidemics and "because they had lower population densities than a fully agrarian people to begin with" (Ibid, 2004), both of which lead to the decimation the Algonquin Tribe. Donahue notes that the English settlers had "a very different agrarian agro-ecology and culture, and a radically different market economy" (Ibid, 2004), than the Native peoples; and during the Colonial
period “the English were to alter the landscape of Concord far more dramatically than the Indians ever had” (Ibid, 2004). 

Beginning in 1635, early Puritan settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony began to push west, eventually establishing the towns of Lexington and Concord (Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 2007). The European settlers brought with them landuse types where the formal common system of pastures, meadows and woodlots, which fit “Concord’s ecological conditions” (Ibid, 2004). Each land practice had a specific use, noted by Donahue; “pasture-land was occasionally plowed for tillage, orchards were often mowed for hay, meadows were grazed after mowing, and woodlands were sometimes foraged by livestock” (Ibid, 2004). This system remained profitable for the colonists through the mid eighteenth century and remained the most common landuse practices during this period were those of “workable proportions of tillage, orchard, mowing, pasture and woodland,” it was here in this dynamic system of interacting landuse types where the formal common system disappeared from Concord and in place was the collaborative undertaking of husbandry (Ibid, 2004). 

According to Donahue, by the mid eighteenth century the Colonists had effectively adopted the “mixed husbandry system of their English ancestors to the soils and climate of New England to Concord.” The colonists were able to adapt to the New England terrain and diversified systems which came up with suitable for distinct purposes” (Ibid, 2004). The most common landuse practices during this period were those of “workable proportions of tillage, orchard, mowing, pasture and woodland,” it was here in this dynamic system of interacting landuse types where the formal common system disappeared from Concord and in place was the collaborative undertaking of husbandry (Ibid, 2004). Each land practice had a specific use, noted by Donahue; “pasture-land was occasionally plowed for tillage, orchards were often mowed for hay, meadows were grazed after mowing, and woodlands were sometimes foraged by livestock” (Ibid, 2004). This system remained profitable for the colonists through the middle of the eighteenth century, however by mid-century Concord faced some challenges, “soil exhaustion or environmental degradation, coupled with a population increase in which husbandry could not sustain the growth” (Ibid, 2004). This shift brought about a decline in farming and a depopulation of rural areas, however those who remained shifted production to dairying, and thus Concord in the mid nineteenth century saw an increase in dairy farming. The use of Battle Road to trade goods, led to truck farming to take rise through the mid twentieth century, which enabled the rise of vegetable farming, however ended with the rise of competition from California. The height of landuse practices, by the mid-1700, the relationship between landuse types where the formal common system disappeared from Concord and in place was the collaborative undertaking of husbandry (Ibid, 2004). Each land practice had a specific use, noted by Donahue; “pasture-land was occasionally plowed for tillage, orchards were often mowed for hay, meadows were grazed after mowing, and woodlands were sometimes foraged by livestock” (Ibid, 2004). This system remained profitable for the colonists through the middle of the eighteenth century, however by mid-century Concord faced some challenges, “soil exhaustion or environmental degradation, coupled with a population increase in which husbandry could  not sustain the growth” (Ibid, 2004). This shift brought about a decline in farming and a depopulation of rural areas, however those who remained shifted production to dairying, and thus Concord in the mid nineteenth century saw an increase in dairy farming. The use of Battle Road to trade goods, led to truck farming to take rise through the mid twentieth century, which enabled the rise of vegetable farming, however ended with the rise of competition from California. The height of landuse practices, by the mid-1700, the relationship between landuse types where the formal common system disappeared from Concord and in place was the collaborative undertaking of husbandry (Ibid, 2004). Each land practice had a specific use, noted by Donahue; “pasture-land was occasionally plowed for tillage, orchards were often mowed for hay, meadows were grazed after mowing, and woodlands were sometimes foraged by livestock” (Ibid, 2004). This system remained profitable for the colonists through the middle of the eighteenth century, however by mid-century Concord faced some challenges, “soil exhaustion or environmental degradation, coupled with a population increase in which husbandry could not sustain the growth” (Ibid, 2004). This shift brought about a decline in farming and a depopulation of rural areas, however those who remained shifted production to dairying, and thus Concord in the mid nineteenth century saw an increase in dairy farming.

The British army, thus had reason to suspect that the stockpiling in Concord could prove dangerous to their own safety (Smith, 2005). April 19, 1775: Shot Heard 'Round the World //

On the night of April 18, under the command of General Thomas Gage, British redcoats set off from Boston towards Concord, marching through the night to arrive in Lexington. The Lexington militia met the British troops on the town green. The militia commander, Captain Parker, ordered his men not to fire but rather disperse. A shot was fired, though it is unclear which side fired. Confusion ensued, ending with several militiamen dead and a British soldier wounded (Ibid, 2005).

Shaken, the British proceeded to Concord where the militiamen advanced towards North Bridge. When the British troops arrived and discovered that the militiamen were further soured with the events of the Boston Massacre. The colonists with much resistance and disdain. These relations were further soured with the events of the Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre. The colonists began stockpiling arms and ammunition in a barn in Concord, out of reach of the British troops occupying Boston, expressing their growing frustration. By April 1775, tensions were rising amongst the colonists and British; discussions of independence were emerging. The British army, thus had reason to suspect that the stockpiling in Concord could prove dangerous to their own safety (Smith, 2005).
The building and establishment of a national park unit was proposed to preserve the historic sites along Battle Road. Minute Man National Historical Park was established as a National Park in 1959 (NPS, Cultural Landscape Inventories, 2007). According to the National Park Service, Minute Man National Historical Park became the seed of what would grow to be Minute Man National Historical Park.

The National Park Service partnered with the Department of Transportation, conducted a Traffic Analysis on Route 2A, specifically examining its impact on the Park’s Visitor Experience. The study found “no more than 1.4% of the two-way traffic on Rte. 2A is visitation to the park, which the majority being split between local trips and trips traveling through the corridor” (Bryan, 2002). The report identified some of the busiest roads in and around the Park, which generate heavy traffic flows and noise pollution: Rte. 2A, Hanscom Drive, Lexington Road, Massachusetts Avenue, Route 128, and Interstate 95. The report concluded that “the level of congestion is reaching any more traffic, especially at peak afternoon hours” (Ibid, 2002).

Early Park Development

Appalled by this encroachment, the creation of a national park unit was proposed to preserve the historic sites along Battle Road. Minute Man National Historical Park was established as a National Park in 1959 (NPS, Cultural Landscape Inventories, 2007). According to the National Park Service, Minute Man “was established by Public Law, to consolidate, preserve, selectively restore and interpret portions of the Lexington-Concord Battle Road, as well as associated structures, properties and sites so that the visitor may better appreciate and understand the beginning of the American Revolution as a significant chapter in the American Historical Heritage” (NPS, 2012). The act specifically identified the following purposes of the park: “the preservation and interpretation of (1) the historic landscape, (2) sites associated with the causes and consequences of the American Revolution” (Ibid, 2012).

Early park development, over the course of decades, included purchasing properties and land, demolishing modern structures, and, in some cases, leasing land back to farmers to maintain traditional patterns of agriculture. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the NPS continued to develop interpretive programs and facilities for visitors. Visitor facilities included a station at Fiske Hill, as well a Visitor Center at the North Bridge. In 1975, in the forth bicentennial of the Revolutionary War, the NPS constructed the Battle Road Visitor Center, located at the opposite end of the park from the North Bridge and near Fiske Hill and Parker’s Revenge (Ibid, 2007). This visitor center was remodeled in 1997, and in 1998 the award-winning multimedia presentation, “The Road to Revolution,” debuted. This video now serves as the Park’s main interpretive programming (NPS, Long-Range Interpretive Plan, 2015). In the early 2000s, Minute Man National Historical Park completed important repairs and restorations of historic structures and completed a variety of planning exercises, including Cultural Landscape Reports, Interpretive Plans, and Foundation Document planning.

Minute Man Today: Park Challenges

Today the park experiences multiple challenges. A particularly significant struggle is...
the conflict between the modern roads that border, and at times, bisects the park. The roads not only impacted the physical boundaries but also impact the interpretive and educational mission the park seeks to achieve. The NPS has been able to affect some road closures and restorations of the Battle Road, notably the completion of the Battle Road Trail in 2005. Still, the park’s efforts to close Route 2A have failed.

The park remains bisected by both Airport Road, Entrance Drive which provides access to the Hanscom Air Force base, and Route 2A (Refer to Current Park & Surrounding Context Map). The roads through the park create heavy traffic flow of fast moving cars. The park lacks a sense of arrival due to the placement of the visitor’s center and road design, resulting in fewer visitor visits. The east main entrance to Minuteman National Historical Park currently lacks a sense of arrival. The initial experience for most visitors is limited to the parking lot and interpretive displays in the visitor center. During the critical first thirty minutes of arrival, visitors typically have no opportunity for meaningful appreciation of the battlefield landscape—the most powerful interpretive tool of all.

The Traffic Analysis report conducted by the NPS in 2002 reported that congestion found on Rte. 2A causes heavy volumes, delays and speeds over Park speed limits all impact the overall visitor experience to the Park. The average daily traffic volumes on Rte. 2A have increased by a factor of 4 from year 1960, thus has seen tremendous growth in the last 40 years (Bryan, 2002). Other detrimental impacts Minute Man faces due to these heavy traffic flows: safety concerns as accident rates are high, environmental concerns such as air quality and drainage, visual and noise pollution where viewing and hearing automobiles detracts from experiencing the historic landscape (Ibid, 2002).
1775 BATTLE LANDSCAPE

To understand the events of the Battle and the current Park landscape, it is critical to examine the landscape as it was on the day of April 19, 1775. A recreation of the battle landscape will help with the overall comprehension of the battle events. And examination of different documents such as, old maps, tax records, wills and deeds, can provide insight into land recreation of 1775.

The area of Lexington and Concord was settled for more than a century before the events of the Battle took place. Majority of the land use around this time was devoted to farming. In 1775 farming at this point switched from communal-based to individual or market-based farming and thus, individual properties were delineated with fencing, using either stone or wood. The individual farms further divided the landscape by separating the different crop fields, which sometimes also required the stone or wood fencing. Certain practices were followed and commonplace in colonial farming. The farm land was divided between pasture, tilled field, meadow, orchard and woodlot; all farms required all or a variation of these farming principles. Colonial orchards or pastures customarily were completely fenced using either stone, wood or a combination of the two. (Malcom, 1985).

The Historic Grounds Report, by Joyce Malcom, provides a detailed description of the battlefield landscape of 1775. Malcom accounts for the different farm owners within what would become the park boundary and provides detailed maps of the colonial farming landscape.

The property of Ebenezer Fiske was the largest and most prosperous farm in the area in 1775. Presently, the East End of the Park, Fiske Hill, is named after this family farm. During 1775, Concord Road or Battle Road, cut through the property as it crossed over the hill; two years prior, 1773, the town of Lexington paid the Fiske family and altered the portion of Concord Road making it “better accommodating of travelers” (Malcom, 1985). In addition to Concord Road, another road of interest described by Malcom was a bridleway, which formed the boundary between the Nelson family farm in Lincoln from the Whittmore family farm in Lexington. Malcom notes that this bridleway played a critical role in the Battle of 1775, as it was “probably the back road to Bedford taken by Josiah Nelson to warn the Bedford Minute Men of the arrival of the British” and the stone wall that lined the road is still...
present (Ibid, 1985).

During 1775 there were several farmers living in the area, all had several acres, and thus the farm buildings and homes were spaced apart in the landscape. The Thorning's lived in what is today known as the Whittemore House in the Park. On the day of April 19, 1775 William Thorning used the hilly and rocky landscape to his advantage against the British, the cross walls, or stone walls, dividing the fields also "afforded Thorning additional camouflauge" (Ibid, 1985). The fields were strewn with boulders and from "his hiding place behind a large boulder he managed to shoot two of the passing soldiers" (Ibid, 1985).

Just east of the old Lexington-Concord line, was the homestead of Jacob Foster, which was a small property just north of Concord Road. Malcolm notes that it is on the Foster property where Paul Revere and Dr. Samuel Prescott were stopped by British officer in the early morning hours of April 19. Though the Foster Farm was small, Concord Road split the property and both sides of the property were bounded with stone wall. Thus, it is the Foster pasture "where the British waited to accost, Revere and Prescott, and it was the stone wall marking the old Lexington-Concord line over which Prescott jumped his horse to his escape" (Ibid, 1985).

The last farm in the present-day Park boundary is known as Meriam's Corner and was a family farm during 1775. The farm had a tillage plot in front of the family homestead and was surrounded with large open pasture fields. Concord Road at Meriam's Corner, was altered dramatically from the width of the road. The width and route of the road was "altered several times near Meriam's Corner," and it's this house which occupied the northeastern side of Meriam's Corner, "as the intersection of Concord and Bedford roads was known, belonged in 1775 to John Meriam" (Ibid, 1985). This stretch of the road played an important part in the running battle. It was at Meriam's Corner that the Americans, who fought at North Bridge, waited for the British. "They knew once the British left the protection of the ridge which ended just west of Meriam's Corner and set out across the long causeway they would be vulnerable and exposed" (Ibid, 1985). Therefore, it was at Meriam's Corner that the Americans' "poured a sharp fire on the retreating columns, causing them loss, and then passed round the next hill to renew the attack" (Ibid, 1985).

It was also in this area during 1775, Meriam's Corner to the Lincoln line, that Malcolm notes that the farms and houses were owned or occupied by widows or single women. Malcolm states that the reasoning for this remain unclear, but "the stretch of road was occupied, and it formed something of a small shopping district, whose residents must have been particularly terrified by the fierce firing as the British columns passed their homes" (Ibid, 1985).

1775 Field Patterning Analysis Map //
Robert Thorson, a professor at the University of Connecticut, provides a detailed account of the geology and history of New England's stone walls in his book, Stone by Stone. New England became stony during the Laurentide Ice Sheet, which covered North America, it "stripped away the last of these ancient soils, scouring the land down to its bedrock, lifting billions of stone slabs and scattering them across the region," thus Thorson notes that New England's stone walls are related to its geologic history (Thorson, 2002). The soil left behind was till or a "hardpan soil," and the settlers found a "landscape underlain by lodgment till, and they encountered the glacial lake-bottom alluvial landscape dominated by sand and silt" (Ibid, 2002). After deforestation and intense tillage, the soil became more exposed to cold, causing it to freeze before each spring where it thawed; which accounts for frost heaving in which stones are incrementally lifted through finer-grained soil to the surface, "clearing stones from pastures and fields became an annual chore for colonial farmers (Ibid, 2002).

Thorson writes that stone walls made an excellent fence over the wood fence because "there were no posts, rails or boards to rot," which made for an early pioneering farming phenomenon (Ibid, 2002). The transition from communal farming to individual, which transitioned to use the stone as territorial markers (Ibid, 2002). Stone walls were also used to mark town lines, "the old line between Lexington and Concord was marked by a broad, straight stone wall," (Malcom, 1985) before the establishment of Lincoln in 1764 but still existed in 1775.

There is a distinction between function and structure of the colonial stone walls. The stone walls were used as retaining walls, boundary markers, cattle guides, pens or foundation walls and the structure varied between single and double walls (Ibid, 2002). The "majority of walls in New England are tossed walls, taking on either the single wall type – built around pastures for the expedient combination of stone disposal and fencing," the walls were constructed for land clearing rather than fencing (Ibid, 2002). The stone walls, how they are constructed and built, are also linked to bedrock and glacial geology, Thorson finds. He notes that the stone walls of New England are "the height of a man's thigh because of ergonomic factors (Ibid, 2002). The beginning stone walls were boundary markers and
the more fundamental purpose to hold waste stone, which littered farm fields, they were understood as linear landfills holding the agricultural refuse. Fieldstone walls were closely associated with the colonial landscape and the Battle of 1775. Thorson states that the stone walls were used as “batteries by the colonial militia to protect them from British fire – the minutemen gave the redcoats ball for ball from behind each and every farmyard wall” (Ibid, 2002).

LET THE STONES TELL THE STORY

Redesign of three specific battle locations provides opportunities to interpret, protect and preserve the integrity and story at Minute Man National Historical Park. The examination of some of the Park challenges, management plans and literature, the historical integrity at Minute Man is threatened, especially as the date moves further away from April 19, 1775. A redesign and examination into creating a more connected network, which better links key battle areas can help to reveal the historical relevancy in people’s minds.

The east main entrance to Minuteman National Historical Park currently lacks a sense of arrival. The initial experience for most visitors is limited to the parking lot and interpretive displays in the visitor center. During the critical first thirty minutes of arrival, visitors typically have no opportunity for meaningful appreciation of the battlefield landscape. This project reconfigures the existing parking lot and reorients the arrival directly onto a point on the historic Battle Road. From there, visitors follow the road and pass the rock outcrops of Parker’s Revenge, a newly excavated and significant site, and approach the redesigned existing visitor center at a new entrance.

The proposed landscape design references eighteenth-century land uses—meadows, pastures, and woodlots—and incorporates existing rock outcrops with new stones (similar but carefully distinguished from historic fabric) to create thresholds, seating, and sites for entrance and interpretive signage. As visitors arrive by car, they pass through larger-scaled thresholds of woodlots that open into meadows with expansive views. On leaving the parking lot, they proceed on foot directly on Battle Road—the principal landscape feature of the site—pass through the restored agricultural landscape, and finally arrive at the visitor center. The rock outcrops of Parker’s Revenge are of particular importance to the design. Colonial militia troops hid among the rock outcroppings and stonewalls of this rocky, wooded ledge and fired at the British regulars trying to return to Boston. In this landscape design, the boulders and historic stonewalls are exposed, giving the same vantage point Parker’s militia had. This helps visitors interpret the historic battle, but it also gives today’s visitors a strong point of orientation in the landscape, with views up and down Battle Road.

A new interpretive trail reveals the battle lines of this violent engagement, while serving to loop visitors from the parking lot up to Parker’s Revenge, to the historic Whittmore House (maintained as another site of interpretive programs) and through the visitor center. Visitors then can return to the parking lot by exiting the visitor center and crossing the meadows, rather than retracing their steps.

Throughout the landscape design, key points of arrival and interpretation are distinguished by new arrangements of boulders and cut stone, which suggest but are clearly distinguishable from the many glacial erratics, rock ledges, and other outcrops which are characteristic of the topography in the area. Boulders are placed at the park entrance and again at the entrance onto Battle Road, which emphasize their importance. The newly designed boulders provide seating, bases for signage, and orientation using a material vocabulary. The existing glacial boulders and ledges on site are characteristic of the regional landscape and were key tactical features in the battle of 1775. Together, the stones tell the story in this design.
The interpretation of historic battlefield landscapes is threatened as we continue to move further away from these specific moments in history. It is important for these historic and nationally significant places to include a component in their management plans to assist with the engagement, visitation and interpretation of these places. Two questions emerged from the research, which helped to frame the design process:

What role does the design of the park have on the visitor’s experience of the battlefield landscape and how can that design be improved?

Can design assist with people’s connection to place? More specifically, how would design at Minute Man Park assist with the Park’s long range interpretive plan?

The GIS mapping and analysis of historical maps helped to inform the decision to select three separate locations, all important to the battle that highlight specific landscape features critical to the battle of 1775 and the landscape. The analysis informed the decision to select three locations as a means to create a landscape network to create a more meaningful park experience.

Along the landscape network, the design sought to implement the same materials at each location to enhance the network and develop a distinguished material language to assist with battlefield interpretation. The design looked specifically at circulation, stones, vegetation, and selective canopy removal as a layering process to implement the proposed design at the three locations.
The 1775 surrounding landscape and area within the present park boundary, was primarily open fields. Agricultural fields of till, meadows and pastures repeat throughout the landscape. Meadows were primarily used for hay production. Woodlots were productive and cultivated for trees for firewood, building, etc. The minimal forested areas and fields created an open landscape in which the Battle of 1775 was fought - long site lines and expansive views allowed the Colonists to easily spot and track the British movements.
The current park landscape is nestled in the suburban towns of Concord, Lincoln and Lexington. To the North is the Hanscom Airforce Base, to the South is Minute Man High School. Route 2A, a major roadway, bisects the park. Most people either experience the park through a car at 40 mph or use the Battle Road Trail for recreation. The park struggles to connect people to the history and intense fighting that occurred on April 19, 1775. The two entrances to the park have minimal signage and often people are unaware of the significant landscape they entered.
The bedrock and surficial geology are intrinsic and specific to the landscape in which the park is situated. Granite, Mafic and Carbonate bands of rock run through the site. There are many bedrock outcroppings riddled throughout the landscape. The large number of stonewalls throughout the landscape, is directly due to this. When looking closer at the battle movements, it is apparent that fighting occurred where these rock outcroppings are. Stones, glacial erratics and stone walls provided shelter for the Colonists firing on the British troops.
The historic route of the original Battle Road or Old Concord Road (marked in yellow on the map), which ran from Concord to Boston, is currently buried beneath Route 2A. The areas where Route 2A cover Battle Road are represented in the thick outline, starting in Meriam's Corner and another section in the middle of the park. The Historic Battle Road, where the fighting occurred along, today is masked by fast moving traffic and the connection is lost. The focus areas of the design are in places where the Historic connection is lost to Battle Road.
The 1775 landscape was an open one, with many agricultural fields and limited, though productive, woodlots. The open landscape provided expansive views into the distance. These long views were critical in the Battle as they provided Colonists with long site lines of the British troops. The open landscape and long views were critical in the Battle and these views depicted in this map represent the critical views in the Battle at Meriam’s Corner, the capture of Paul Revere and the Battle at Parker’s Revenge.
The landscape of the park today has dramatically changed. The park is almost completely forested and those critical Battle views and expansive landscape is lost. However, there are moments where the evolved landscape is beautiful and lovely. These views are called out in white and provided a framework in the design process as ones to enhance.
The proposed design of Meriam's Corner, Paul Revere Capture Site and Parker's Revenge, incorporates these historic and existing views into the design. The forest canopy is very carefully and selectively removed in these areas to bring back the character of the 1775 landscape while enhancing existing views. The long expansive views, which were critical in the Battle, are restored and a more open landscape emerges. Selected tree removal is done at each designed focus area. The newly designed open landscape is noticeably different from the rest of the park, which helps visitors to engage with the history.
The 1775 field patterning was of meadow, pasture, tilled field and woodlot. This field structure was repeated throughout the landscape. This patterning and repetition of the 1775 landscape, helped to frame the current design and to create a new patterning in the current park landscape. This diagram helped to frame landscape patterning & helped to inform landscape patterning to introduce into the park.
The proposed design at Minute Man focuses on three specific areas: Meriam’s Corner (west entrance), Paul Revere Capture Site & Parker’s Revenge (east main entrance). The landscape designs are focused on making the landscape central to the visitor experience & reveal the historic character of 1775. The design uses Rt. 2A as a fixture in the landscape, as it was on the road where the running battle took place & changes the materiality of the road to bring visual awareness while assisting to reduce traffic speeds.
The landscape in 1775 at Meriam’s Corner was extensively farmed; pastures and tilled fields were found throughout, which created an open and expansive landscape. The many farm fields and expansive openness of the landscape led to a battle on April 19, 1775 to be fought in these fields and occur in this exact place. At present the landscape of Meriam’s Corner is not expressed or viewed as a Battlefield; British soldiers were attacked and killed by the forceful Colonists defending their farmland. This corner also serves as the West Entrance into Minute Man National Historical Park. The landscape, however, is failing to read as a battlefield landscape and as an entrance into this important National Historical Park. The redesign of Meriam’s Corner intends to restore the 1775 landscape character and improve views and site lines to the entrance. A traffic circle is designed as a gateway into the park to not only reduce entry speeds into the park but to also visually connect visitors with landscape and provide them with long views into the battlefield and to the existing agricultural farm. Battle Road is resurfaced to not only visually reveal this historic feature (buried through this portion), but to also create a material change to reduce traffic speeds when entering the park; help visitors or others to feel the sense of entering a prominent place. The dense shrubby undergrowth and trees are removed and replaced with meadow and expanded agricultural fields to evoke 1775 landscape and to visually set this area apart. The parking lot is reoriented to the North of the Meriam House. Immediately this provides visitors with expansive views over the newly designed meadow landscape and reflect the landscape character of 1775. Stones are an important material used in the design. Scaled-figure stones are used to symbolize deaths/ intense fighting that occurred here. The human-scale hopes to connect people to the battlefield and each are engraved with quotes from British and Colonial soldiers quotes from the day of the Battle. The new trail begins at the parking lot and brings visitors out across the meadow-scape and through designed scaled-figure stones. Along the trail views are framed to provide visitors with expansive/ long site lines looking out across the meadow, to the agricultural fields and at these stone-scaled figures, which are placed in the landscape along battle lines. The intention for this design is to enhance the landscape experience to better connect people to this important battlefield.
MERIAM’S CORNER: West Entrance

EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. High Point - Critical in 1775 Battle
2. Ambiguous Entrance: poorly defined, fast traffic triangle
3. Battle Road Trail close proximity to road - heavy traffic flows
4. Wooded entrance: limited site lines, poorly defined park boundary
5. Visitor parking lot: not near house, battle road trail begins here
6. Beautiful existing meadow
7. Thick woods: limited site views, not true to 1775 character, filled with invasives
8. Historic agricultural field: no visual connection
9. Visitor parking lot

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

1. Restored Historic Battle Road - new material
2. Relocated parking lot - closer to house, new trail/interpretive moment begins
3. Relocated Parking
4. Restored Meadow
5. Cleared Landscape - restores 1775 landscape character, enhances views
6. Gathering Moments - visual views new trail, seating
7. Introduced Figure Stones - assist in interpreting battle landscape, engraved with quotes of soldiers
8. New Traffic Circle - calm speeds, defined entrance
9. Meriam’s House

Historic 1775 Landscape of Meriam’s Corner

Historic 1775 Landscape of Meriam’s Corner
Dense vegetation inhibits site-lines while 1775 landscape character is lost. Visually landscape does not look important.

Battle Road is beneath Lexington Road. Attention is not drawn to this historically important road, instead it is buried.

Newly designed traffic circle, helps to mitigate fast traffic speeds while providing a threshold into the Park. Historic Battle Road is re-paved with different material to bring attention to the historic road.

Newly cleared forest, opens the landscape, provides long views & enhances site lines. Planted native meadow grasses evokes 1775 landscape character.

Designed figure-stones. Human scale to represent fallen or standing soldiers. All engraved with quotes from the British or Colonial troops.

Human-figure stones to mark the entrance into the Park. Planting the traffic circle with native meadow grasses & monument hopes to draw attention to Park boundary, while providing an entrance.
PAUL REVERE CAPTURE SITE

The 1775 landscape of this area were pastures and farm fields owned by the Brook’s family. The landscape here in 1775 was open as the area was extensively farmed and worked. It was these open qualities of the working landscape in 1775, long site lines and no canopy cover, which led to Paul Revere’s capture on his ride to warn the Minute Men. The landscape today, however, has drastically evolved since 1775 and no longer is the open character felt and the historic significance, intrinsic to this landscape, is lost. The redesign of the Capture Site intends to better situate the memorial in the landscape and evoke some of the 1775 landscape features that are lost today.

The visitor parking lot is moved across the Rt. 2A and is now located off Mill Street. This re-orientation provides visitors with long views towards the monument. An interpretive gathering node is framed to look at the memorial and provide visitors with information. A new trail brings people through the edge of the new pasture, where they can watch animals graze and walk along the wooded edge. The trail then connects visitors to a larger axial trail, with the focal point of the memorial in the distance. Along the way visitors walk the edge of the new meadow and pasture. Stone seating provides visitors moments to rest and views are framed to emphasize the newly opened landscape. A safe cross walk helps bring visitors across Rt. 2A while also helping to slow traffic speeds along this corridor. The road is resurfaced with the same material used at Meriam’s Corner to draw attention to the intersection of Historic Battle Road. A loop trail brings visitors around the memorial while connecting to Battle Road Trail. The intention for the redesign of the Paul Revere Capture Site is to help reveal the historical importance here while better connecting visitors to the landscape providing visitors with a more meaningful experience.
PAUL REVERE CAPTURE SITE

EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. No connection to meadow - split by Route 2A
2. Thick forest, no visual lines - inhibits 1775 landscape character
3. Sand Parking lot - not designed as entrance to the memorial, no interpretive moment
4. Paul Revere Capture memorial, off Battle Road Trail - close to Rt. 2A
5. Rt. 2A bisects meadow, historic battle road is underneath 2A here - no visual markers to highlight important road section

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

6. Restored meadow to evoke 1775
7. Restored pasture - grazing opportunity for people to monument, on edge between pasture & meadow, provides visitors with seating and framing views of meadow and pasture, axial path lined with shade trees
8. Re-located parking lot with gathering interpretive area, positioned to provide visitors with view of memorial
9. Re-surfaced road, new material to emphasize Historic Battle Road
10. New loop trail, brings visitors around memorial & to new path across street
**EXISTING PAUL REVERE CAPTURE SITE**

1. Rt. 2A & Historic Battle Road intersect each other - attention is not brought to this historically important road, instead it is buried.
2. Capture memorial is close to Rt. 2A, no real relation to surrounding landscape. Battle Road trail connects to monument. Limited interpretive experience.
3. Dirt parking lot. No threshold or framing entrance to mark/ explain the capture site & not related to memorial.
4. Dense vegetation inhibits site-lines while 1775 landscape character is lost. Landscape not true to the context Paul Revere was captured in.
5. No connection to meadow - no way for visitors to cross Rt. 2A, limits experience.

**PROPOSED PAUL REVERE CAPTURE SITE**

1. New material paving on Rt 2A. This will call attention to Historic Battle Road both in the car and visually.
2. Axial monument trail provides visitors with safe walk-way over Rt. 2A to connect to the newly designed pasture and meadow. New trail provides seating while allowing visitors to freely wander.
3. New Material paving on Rt 2A. This will call attention to Historic Battle Road both in the car and visually.
4. Loop trail brings visitors around the monument and connects across.
5. Newly cleared pasture - grazing introduced for the park.
7. Newly designed stone fence rails - frame pasture & provide entry.
PARKER’S REVENGE: East Main Entrance

Parker’s Revenge is another critical Battlefield landscape. In 1775 the Colonial Militia Men took coverage in the woodlot on the hill and behind boulders scattered throughout the landscape to fire upon the British troops, marching in an open landscape. The British did not stand a chance against the savvy colonial farmers. Apart from the productive woodlot, the landscape was rather open as again it was cultivated farm fields. Thus, the colonial troops had long site lines of the British troops on their retreat to Boston. The historic landscape today, however, is hidden by invasive forest and shrubbery undergrowth and is no longer seen as a key place or viewed as a battlefield.

The entrance of the park is clearly defined with long site views in and newly designed stones mark the entry and act as a threshold into the Park. Airport Road has a material change to improve visual character, while Battle Road gets the same material change as the previous sites to bring visual importance and to slow traffic through this section. The visitor center is placed in an open meadow landscape and the entry is reoriented to provide easy movement through. The open meadow surrounding the park references 1775 landscape and provides long visual connections to the Whittemore House and Parker’s Revenge. The parking lot is reoriented to bring people directly onto Battle Road and is visually aligned to Parker’s Revenge. The view is framed for visitors to look at the rock outcroppings and connection is made to this important landscape feature. A newly designed battle loop trail brings visitors through the Parker Revenge site and near the boulders for seating. The trail references battle lines and provides people with long views onto the new meadow-scape. The trail connects people to the Whittemore House and to the Visitors Center to create a more connected landscape walk for visitors. Throughout the landscape design, key points of arrival and interpretation are distinguished by new arrangements of boulders and cut stone, clearly distinguishable from the many glacial erratics characteristic of the landscape. The design intends to make the landscape central and evoke the 1775 landscape character to improve the visitor experience.
PARKER’S REVENGE: East Main Entrance

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

- Visitor Center
- Bloody Bluff fault zone, largest bedrock outcrop in Park
- Parker’s Revenge, critical battle site but limited visitor experience
- Main parking lot for visitors - not related to surrounding landscape
- Park Main Entrance, ambiguous wayfinding, no clear directional sense, entrance not marked with a threshold
- Whittemore House, witness structure
- Thick forest, riddled with some invasives, no connection to this side, site lines are impeded, impairs directional sense into park - hinders entrance experience

**PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

- Newly oriented Visitor Center - relates to surrounding landscape - visual connection to Parker’s Revenge & Whittemore House
- Exposed, emphasized bedrock outcrop
- Stone Gathering space before walking; newly designed battle loop trail following battle movements
- Orchard parking lot, reorients visitors to Battle Road Trail, stone gathering/ interpretive moments
- Opened entrance, evokes 1775 landscape, new stones act as thresholds
- Whittemore House - New battle loop trail connects visitors to, new pasture & meadow
- Pasture & Meadow, cleared landscape - evokes 1775 landscape, improves visual character
Historic stone wall. In 1775 the road was lined on both sides with stone walls.

Airport Road impacts visual integrity through this section.

Dense vine, invasive vegetation - inhibiting site lines & Battlefield landscape not represented. Visual connection to Parker’s Revenge & outcrops lost. 1775 open landscape lost, limited site lines & those were critical in Battle.

Resurfaced Airport Road. Material strong enough to support heavy loads but color chosen to blend into landscape, assisting in restoring 1775 landscape integrity.

Removal of selected trees and shrubby undergrowth vegetation helps to open landscape evoking 1775 landscape character. Clearing also provides visitors with visual connections to rock out crops and battle road trail of Parker’s Revenge.

Battle Road Trail connects to newly designed Battle Loop Trail off Parker’s Revenge.

Battle Road Trail, Historic Battle Road, same road British soldiers retreated to Boston.
INDEX

Stone Typologies
Stones of the Park
Potential Introduced Stones

Clearing Typologies
Existing Sections
Proposed Sections

Edge Conditions
Meadow Edge
Pasture Edge
Paths
Woodland Edge
STONE TYPOLOGIES: EXISTING IN MINUTE MAN

OLD

Stonewalls
Stonewalls are a common characteristic throughout New England. Within the park boundary, stonewalls historically lined either side of Battle Road. Colonial troops used these to shield and fire upon the fleeing British troops. Today some of these historic structures remain as some of the only landscape features left from the Battle. Growth of lichen is a feature that helps distinguish historic walls.

NEW

Stonewalls
Over the course of 250 years the historic stonewall begin to weather & crumble, as anything else. The Park Service has attempted to restore & replace this important features through the park. The newer walls are carefully designed & constructed - either dry laid or with mortar. Easy to distinguish the newer walls have stones with pink tints, as they were quarried from Maine.
Bedrock //
The Bloody Bluff Fault Zone runs through the Park, which creates large bedrock outcrops to be found throughout the East end. Critical in Battle.

Engravings //
Throughout Minute Man stone is used to convey information. It is used sometimes to mark places where soldiers were killed. It is used as way-finding to mark the Historic Battle Road and it is used again as directional purposes for the NPS. The Park uses stones as signage.

Commemoration //
Throughout Minute Man & the surrounding area, stone is used as memorials. Often these are used to mark the location of fallen British soldiers, an event or where a battle took place. Either the memorial is a plaque on a boulder or is a designed stone wall, regardless stone is the main material used.

Boulders //
Found along Battle Road Trail. Critical in the Battle; Colonist used these features to take cover, hide & fire upon the British Troops.
STONE TYPOLOGIES:
POTENTIAL IDEAS FOR MINUTE MAN

CONTEMPLATING

Battle Memorials
To assist with the Battle interpretation, human scaled stones are introduced into Meriam’s Corner & Parker’s Revenge. The scaled stones physically evoke a figure & are placed according to battle movements. Some are standing others are turned over, both represent chaos & the lives lost. The stones are engraved with quotes from soldiers to connect visitors to a person; soldier who was killed.

Gathering/Paving
Gathering spaces are introduced, at the three design areas, along the new trail. These places are woven into the trail & allow people to sit, reflect & view the newly designed landscape. The paving pattern is designed to visually catch visitors attention, pull them off the trail & bring them to a specific moment. The gathering spaces allow for critical interpretation of the battlefield landscape.

Reed, 2012.
Trulove, 2012.
O’CONNOR | 111
Threshold / 
Throughout Battle Road Trail critical views in the landscape are framed to evoke the landscape character of 1775. The designed & selectively framed views help to create a coherent landscape network, which evokes the scene of the Battle of April 19, 1775. These thresholds hope to frame these critical views while encouraging visitors to wander into these newly designed landscapes of meadows & pastures.

Natural Seating / 
Seating is incorporated into the gathering moments and is of natural stone material to blend in. Boulders & outcrops which are critical features in the landscape are transformed into seating, which allow visitors to directly interact & engage with these features. Seating can be incorporated into walls or thresholds so these features all tie together & work to enhance visitor experience.
CLEARING TYPOLOGIES: POTENTIAL IDEAS FOR MINUTE MAN

**Creating Edges**

The current landscape throughout Minute Man is dominated by a regrowth forest, riddled with shrubby invasives. The forest inhibits expansive views & limits site lines throughout the Park. The field patterning throughout the landscape drastically changed from the 1775 field patterning of meadow, pasture & woodlot. The selected removal of forest in the three specific designed areas, hopes to restore the landscape character of 1775 by introducing meadows & pastures. The Park path brings visitors along the various edges of the new field patterns. Visitors can walk the edge of forest & pasture, forest & meadow & Lastly meadow & pasture, all of which create a beautiful experience. Emphasizing the edge hopes to convey the importance of these field patterns and restore the landscape character of 1775 to Minute Man NHP.
REFERENCES


