



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Minute Man National Historical Park
174 Liberty Street
Concord, Massachusetts 01742



1A2 (MIMA)

January 14, 2025

Ann Clifford
Senior Planner, Concord Planning Division
Town of Concord
141 Keyes Road
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Great American Outdoors Act Projects, Programmatic Review Package: Signage Package 2, Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, MA (PEPC 112526)

Dear Ann,

The National Park Service (NPS) is completing work on a park-wide signage plan that will govern the placement of signage into the future. Portions of this plan have already been implemented in accordance with previous compliance completed in the spring (PEPC112524/R.C.69698). This second signage package provides wayfinding, parking, instructional, and DOT signage throughout Minute Man National Historical Park (MIMA) and consists of the signs that NPS wishes to erect using funds from the Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA). The signs would be erected after the 250th anniversary of the events of April 19, 1775. Together with the Phase 1 signs, the new signage campaign will provide a unified look and feel for park messaging. Prior to their installation, NPS will contract to conduct an archeological survey of sensitive locations. Additional information about the project is included below.

Undertaking

The undertaking includes the installation of up to 400 signs throughout the park. These signs are in categories 3-7 in the attached table. All signage footings would be installed to below the frost line (between 3-4 feet below the surface). The location and type of each sign to be installed is included in the attached location plan, with sign details included in the sign layout document. The layout document does not include designs for off-the-shelf type signs, such as stop signs, yield signs, and cross walk signs, generally labeled as "DOT" in the sign plan.

Some of the signs in the plan are in good shape or were replaced during the Phase 1 signage project and are not currently in need of replacement (category 1). Other sign locations will need to be worked out with the towns and state agencies (category 2 and some 3). These are unlikely to be replaced at this time. Because the signage plan is still in draft, there may be some changes to either the signs to be installed, their location, or their type. For instance, NPS is advocating for smaller signs in town historic districts. Generally, changes to the plan would be made to reduce the number or size of signs, or to ensure that they are placed in the most effective location outside of major viewsheds.

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the entire Minute Man National Historical Park National Register District (District) as well as areas outside of the park as indicated on the attached location plan. Impact areas limited to the footing installations and the areas in which the signs can be viewed.

Historic Properties

The project incorporates the District, The Wayside National Historical Landmark, the Northbridge/Monument Square District, and the Colonel James Barrett House and Farm, all of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

Archeological Resources and Survey

NPS proposes to conduct a Phase 1 survey within the APE to determine if significant cultural resources are located with the project area. The results will be compiled in a final report that also outlines clear recommendations as to the potential eligibility of resources encountered during the project and future research. The investigation will meet all relevant Department of the Interior/National Park Service and Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Standards and Guidelines for Phase I Archeological Investigations. The number and placement of estimated test pits can be found by comparing the data on the attached table with the location plan. Additional information on the scope of the survey is provided below.

Areas Eliminated from Survey

- NPS has completed a desktop survey of the sign locations to determine areas that lack archeological sensitivity as informed by previous archeological work or known previous disturbance (e.g. parking lot grading). Signs to be installed in these areas have been eliminated from additional testing.
- Signs that do not require ground disturbance either because they are attached to the inside of buildings (e.g. handicap bathroom signs) or because existing posts can be reused were eliminated from additional testing.
- Signs that will be replaced in kind in place were eliminated from additional testing.

Archeological Survey

The Archeological Overview and Assessment (Herbster 2005) for the park identifies areas of high significance for both historic and Native American resources. For now, NPS assumes that any signs that are not replacement signs (category 6) will need to be tested regardless of whether they are within a previously identified high sensitivity area. This recommendation may change once an archeological contractor that is yet to be selected is hired. They will be tasked with reviewing NPS's recommendations, including field verification of sign placement and sensitivity in places such as the Rt. 2 road verge and making a determination of whether there are additional locations that do not warrant testing or where testing may be necessary. They will share their recommendations with NPS archeologists prior to making changes.

Field work consisting of background research, the excavation of approximately 162 standard 50 x 50 centimeter test pits (STPs), artifact cataloging and curation, and project reporting and documentation will

be completed by a consultant that has yet to be selected. The selected consultant will adhere to standard methodologies for fieldwork and reporting as listed below:

- The selected consultant will conduct background research comprehensive enough to interpret the result of the archeological investigation based on the requirements stipulated in the State of Massachusetts guidelines for conducting of such investigations. Information collected during this background research process must be presented in the introductory sections of the project report and may be further utilized in interpreting any archeological resources that may be discovered during the fieldwork phase of the archeological investigation. Data derived from the background research process may also be used in the development of management recommendations that will be presented in the concluding section of the project report.
- All STPs shall be square and 50 by 50-centimeters in size. Each STP will be fully excavated in natural stratigraphic layers to culturally sterile subsoils, or 1 meter (ca. 3 feet), whichever comes first. All soils shall be dry screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth to recover artifacts unless soil conditions warrant other treatment. All screening shall occur on top of tarps, and all sediment removed and screened from every STP shall be returned to their original point of origin and the area of each STP excavation returned to original conditions to the maximum extent possible.
- A selective sample strategy shall be employed during the STP surveys. Bulk materials are such as large quantities of brick fragments, coal, slag, iron or tin can fragments, large quantities of shell, fire cracked rock, roofing slate, mortar and other architectural debris shall be selectively sampled for representative examples only. The remaining examples of such bulk materials shall be quantified, weighed, noted on the field forms, and discarded in the field.
- The locations of all STPs excavated during this project shall be controlled through use of a property/pit number system. Physical locations of the STPs shall be documented through use of sub-meter GPS technology. Coordinate locations for all STPs shall be prepared to be published in an appendix to the final report using the NAD 83 UTM Zone 19 N coordinate system. All GPS and GIS data (and metadata) shall also be returned to the park at the conclusion of the project.
- The sidewall profiles of STPs shall be recorded using both sketch drawings and photography. All measurements present in photographs and drawings of profiles must be metric. Profile drawings shall be prepared in anticipation of these drawings being included in the final report. A representative sample of STP profiles shall be prepared to be included in the draft and final reports. At least one representative profile of each test unit must be sketch drawn.
- Field photography shall be taken during the investigation to thoroughly document field conditions, significant areas of interest, crew activities, and selected profiles of STPs.
- The consultant will also maintain numerous field records over the course of the project, including STP excavation forms for each test, Munsell soil color observations for each unique strata encountered within each STP, a catalog of field specimens where every excavated provenience is given a sequential number in the field, a photographic log, a list of features; and a daily record of the observations and procedures conducted by the on-site field supervisor.
- All artifacts recovered during the project will be washed and cleaned as appropriate to the material. All the artifacts collected will also be cataloged and presented to the park for entry into ICMS. All stable artifacts greater than 1/2 inch, and all diagnostic artifacts, that can be directly labeled without harming the artifact shall be directly labeled. If large quantities (e.g., more than 250 items) of fire cracked rock, architectural materials (e.g., windowpane fragments, mortar, brick, nails), or shell however comprise a significant portion of material recovered, then at least 20% of the items in the lot (both large and small) must be directly labeled. The consultant will also provide evidence that personnel responsible for cataloging artifacts and conducting laboratory research have adequate training and experience to ensure successful completion of these tasks.

At the completion of the project, all artifacts and supporting documentation (field notes and forms, maps and drawings, and other paper records, photographic records, and all other materials associated with project documentation) shall be transferred to the Park Curator at Minute Man National Historical Park. All documentation returned to the Park will also be cataloged and housed to regional standards and returned to the NPS upon completion of the project.

The selected consultant will be responsible for completing a final report of the project that is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Appendix C, DO-28, 1997) and all relevant sections of Massachusetts Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. In addition to the report, the consultant will prepare MHC Form D, and an Archeological report abstract to ensure the final submission conforms to both NPS and MHC standards.

At a minimum, the final report will include the following sections:

- a. Summary
- b. Introduction
- c. Research background
- d. Research Design and Field Methods
- e. Laboratory Methods
- f. Artifact description and analysis
- g. Syntheses of fieldwork and laboratory analysis
- h. Recommendations.
- i. Other sections.

The report will also include a bibliography of sources cited, a table of contents, and lists of figures, tables, as appropriate.

In addition to the text sections listed above, the report will include an appendix containing a complete catalog of recovered artifacts for all phases of the project included within this scope, an appendix including Massachusetts state forms, including a site form if new sites are discovered during the investigation, and an appendix of all GPS coordinates associated with excavation units, artifact concentrations, and notable surface artifacts.

Findings

This project is eligible for streamlined review under Stipulation V of the *Programmatic Agreement Between the National Park Service, Minute Man National Historical Park and the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Officer Concerning Implementation of a Strategic Facilities Plan to Eliminate Deferred Maintenance Within the Park*. Our CRM Team has reviewed the sign design and locations and determined that the project would *not adversely affect* the District, pending the results of the archeological survey and the finalization of several issues (as described above) that will appear in the final plan. If during archeological survey significant resources are discovered, NPS will reopen compliance and consult with your office on individual elements of this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Margie Coffin Brown, Integrated Resource Manager, at Margie_Coffin_Brown@nps.gov or 617-620-2942. Ms. Brown will also be in touch when the latest drawing set is available to meet with your office again to discuss with you and other Town personnel those specific signs in Concord Town Center and near Barrett Farm where there were concerns including about sign sizes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simone Monteleone', written in a cursive style.

Simone Monteleone
Superintendent

Enclosures:

AoE
Sign List Phase 2 Spread Sheet
MIMA Location Plan

References

Herbster, Holly

2005 *Archeological Overview and Assessment, Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, Lincoln, and Lexington, Massachusetts*. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. Report No. 1706. Submitted to the National Park Service, Lowell, MA.

Cc: Margo Brooks, NPS-NERO
Matt Flynn, NPS-NERO
Margie Brown, NPS-MIMA
Nicole Walsh, NPS-MIMA



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Minute Man National Historical Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: LRF Prepare Comprehensive Sign Plan and Rehab All Signs (Phase 2)

Prepared by: David Korkuc **Date Prepared:** **Telephone:**

PEPC Project Number: 112526

Locations:

County, State: Middlesex, MA

Describe project:

As part of the Legacy Restoration Fund (master PEPC 101017), this project includes a Comprehensive Sign Plan for Minute Man NHP's four units and includes the design, fabrication, and installation/rehabilitation of all park signs to conform with the NPS Messaging Standards.

The park will collaborate with Harper's Ferry Sign Center to prepare contracts for a comprehensive sign plan as well as a fabrication and installation contract so that all park signs are in good condition and conform with NPS Messaging Standards. This project is a second phase of the overall signage project at the park. The signs will be installed after the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

While none of the signs are historically significant, some signs are placed in potentially sensitive archeological areas, and all signs are within historic district(s). Some signs are located with rights-of-way or placed in front of historic structures. The overall project is included in the MIMA Strategic Facilities Plan "Project Development" (2021).

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Trail corridors and road corridors within Minute Man NHP including parking areas.

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

No
 Yes

Source or reference: Minute Man National Historical Park NR Nomination Cultural Landscape Inventory for Battle Road Unit (1996), Meriam's Corner (2015), Nelson Farm Area (2012), and Fiske Hill (2015)
Cultural Landscape Report for Barrett Farm Unit (Draft 2025), Battle Road Unit (2005), and North Bridge Unit (2004); The Wayside Unit (2008)
Archeological Investigations of Minute Man National Historical Park (1990)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: Major John Buttrick House **LCS:** 000932 **ParkID:** 5-121-A **Asset:** 63671
Location: 231 Liberty Street, Concord

Property Name: (Second) East Quarter Schoolhouse **LCS:** 040236 **ParkID:** 4-119-A **Asset:** 64063
Location: 737 - 739 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Battle Road **LCS:** 000919 **ParkID:** 1-173 **Asset:** 63940
Location: Concord, Lincoln & Lexington

Property Name: Elisha Jones House **LCS:** 000924 **ParkID:** 5-125-A **Asset:** 63971
Location: 242 Monument Street, Concord

Property Name: Battle Road Trail **LCS:** **Asset:** 65167

Property Name: Minute Man Visitor Center **LCS:** **ParkID:** 1-109-A **Asset:** 64230
Location: Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

Property Name: Colonel James Barrett House **LCS:** 957939 **ParkID:** 06-102 **Asset:** 242384
Location: 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: D. Inferrera House **LCS:** 101976 **ParkID:** 3-118-A **Asset:** 64092
Location: 1087 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Battle Road Trail **LCS:** **Asset:** 65167

Property Name: Nelson Road **LCS:** 040170 **ParkID:** 1-119-A **Asset:** 64227

Property Name: Minute Man Visitor Center **LCS:** **ParkID:** 1-109-A **Asset:** 64230
Location: Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

Property Name: George Hall House **LCS:** 040028 **ParkID:** 4-103-A **Asset:** 64070
Location: 831 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Battle Road **LCS:** 000919 **ParkID:** 1-173 **Asset:** 63940
Location: Concord, Lincoln & Lexington

Property Name: (Second) East Quarter Schoolhouse **LCS:** 040236 **ParkID:** 4-119-A **Asset:** 64063
Location: 737 - 739 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Elisha Jones House **LCS:** 000924 **ParkID:** 5-125-A **Asset:** 63971
Location: 242 Monument Street, Concord

Property Name: Colonel James Barrett House **LCS:** 957939 **ParkID:** 06-102 **Asset:** 242384
Location: 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord

Property Name: Meriam House **LCS:** 040243 **ParkID:** 4-106-A **Asset:** 64056
Location: 34 Old Bedford Road, Concord

Property Name: Farwell Jones House **LCS:** 023167 **ParkID:** 4-101-A **Asset:** 64084
Location: 955 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Major John Buttrick House **LCS:** 000932 **ParkID:** 5-121-A **Asset:** 63671
Location: 231 Liberty Street, Concord

Cultural Landscapes Present: Yes

Property Name: Meriam's Corner Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65326

Property Name: The Wayside Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65327
Location: 455 Lexington Road, Concord

Property Name: Fiske Hill Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65333

Property Name: Buttrick Designed Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 63943

Property Name: Jones/Stow Farm Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65328

Property Name: North Bridge Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65324
Location: Concord

Property Name: Paul Revere Area Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65331

Property Name: Hartwell Area Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65330

Property Name: Brooks Farm Cultural Landscape **LCS:** **Asset:** 65329

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

No Replace historic features/elements in kind

No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Yes Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural
_____ landscape

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible>

Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or
_____ archeological or ethnographic resources

No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Nicole Walsh

Date: 10/08/2024

Comments: This project is not likely to cause an adverse effect on the National Register District. As Joel Dukes noted, an archeological plan is needed to ensure that sign locations will not cause an adverse effect.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

10. Erection of Signs, Wayside Exhibits, and Memorial Plaques

[X] Archeologist

Name: Matthew Flynn

Date: 10/10/2024

Comments: Update post reception of design for phase II of sign installation: Many of the sign locations fit within known archeological landscapes, or in areas where testing has not previously occurred. Phase I archeological testing must be completed on all sign locations before signs can be installed.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: CRM firm should be contracted to conduct phase I testing on all sign locations that do not fit within previously tested and cleared landscapes.

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

10. Erection of Signs, Wayside Exhibits, and Memorial Plaques

[X] Archeologist

Name: Joel Dukes

Date: 10/18/2022

Comments: As the sign plan is developed a list of new sign installations should be created to evaluate the need for archaeological investigations.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Phase I archaeological investigations will be needed at sign locations that are potentially sensitive for significant cultural resources.

[X] Historical Architect

Name: James Lee

Date: 10/17/2022

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect

Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

10. Erection of Signs, Wayside Exhibits, and Memorial Plaques

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Potential to Cause Effects
 No Historic Properties Affected
 No Adverse Effect
 Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

10. Erection of Signs, Wayside Exhibits, and Memorial Plaques .

C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

E. Memo to Project File

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required:

SHPO Sent:

SHPO Received:

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: Jan 14, 2025

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions: Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

Testing protocol has been identified for those signs where previous archeological investigations have not been completed. This will be required ahead of any sign installation where identified by CRM archeologists. This follows the requirements of the 2021 PA for the project.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures: Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

Following the requirements of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement for the Great American Outdoors Act project. Consultation of the Condition No Adverse Effect required with SHPO, Tribes, and Consulting Parties (Towns).

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Nicole Walsh

NICOLE WALSH

Digitally signed by NICOLE WALSH

Date: 2025.01.13 11:51:18 -05'00'

Date:

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Superintendent:

SIMONE MONTELEONE

Signature

Digitally signed by SIMONE MONTELEONE

Date: 2025.01.14 10:19:31 -05'00'

Date:

Simone Monteleone