

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in **How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form** (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Levi Wetherbee Farm

other names/site number Wetherbee-Cobleigh-Steele Farm

2. Location

street & number 484 Middle Road N/A not for publication

city or town Boxborough N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01719

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Depty SHPO, MHC

November 3, 2006
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12/12/06

Levi Wetherbee Farm
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
3	0	buildings
4	0	sites
3	0	structures
2	0	objects
12	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural fields

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT (house)

RECREATION

AGRICULTURE: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: fieldstone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. DESCRIPTION

General site layout

The Levi Wetherbee (Wetherbee-Cobleigh-Steele) Farm (MHC Area A) is located in an area east and southeast of Boxborough's old town center composed of residential and agricultural properties dating from the late 18th through the 20th centuries. Development in the immediate vicinity of the farm consists of 19th and 20th century houses on large lots, with large stretches of woods and wetlands interspersed.

The nominated property (MHC Area A) comprises a single 36-acre parcel of land which gradually descends south from Middle Road through an evolved agricultural landscape (MHC #902) of hay meadows and the remains of a mid-20th century Christmas tree farm to a wooded wetland in the south portion. A narrow streambed with high banks courses south through the west part of the property from a small round farm pond just below the road (Map #5; Photo #1). Outflow of water from the pond is channeled through a corrugated metal culvert under a stone-reinforced causeway or "run" across the pond's south edge. (Map #10; Photo 1). The grassed surface of the run shows the ruts of generations of wheels of farm vehicles.

On higher ground along the west edge of the property, roughly paralleling the stream, is a heavily rutted cart path (Map #6; Photo 8). The path is intersected at two points by fieldstone walls that may once have formed part an enclosure, although currently openings in the walls, once perhaps fitted with wooden gates, stand open.

Most of the east and west property boundaries of the farm are lined with fieldstone walls (Map #7). A line of deciduous trees follows the east boundary wall, and scattered bushes and trees, including a few old or wild apple trees, are present on the west part of the property in the area of the pond and cartpath. Clumps of balsam and other nursery evergreen trees remaining from a 20th-century tree farm occupy part of the center portion of the farm.

The Levi Wetherbee House stands close to the south edge of Middle Road. Just east of the house, a short asphalt drive, lined on the east with maple trees, leads to the early 1940s barn. A few feet north of the barn is the 9 1/2' x 11 1/2' rubble-based concrete slab remaining from the gable-roofed, clapboarded milkhouse of about 1950, which was torn down in the 1990s. A few 20th-century sheds were taken down after the town of Boxborough bought the farm in 1994, but a small icehouse of ca. 1904 relocated from another Boxborough farm in 1999, stands on a small knoll south of the barn. The remains of a stone structure, reported to have been a tunnel leading from the house cellar to the bank of the pond (also likely to have been used as a root cellar), are still in place underground just southwest of the house.

Prior to 1856, the line of Middle Road passed just south of the farmhouse, rather than north. Through World War II, apple orchards and meadows occupied most of the property on both sides of the stream, leaving only a small cleared area around the house and outbuildings at the north-northeast edge of the property.

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Boxborough (Middlesex), MASection number 7 Page 2**Levi Wetherbee House (Wetherbee Farmhouse)**, mid-18th C./enlarged ca. 1800-1815 (MHC.3;
Map #1, Photos 1-5)

The farmhouse in its present form is a 34 x 28-foot south-facing, side-gabled, 3 x 2-bay, 2½-story, center-chimney house. Due to the relocation of Middle Road, the building stands with its back to the street. Clad in wood clapboard, with an asphalt-shingle roof, it rests on a fieldstone foundation topped with split granite blocks. Its south facade is symmetrically arranged. The center entry has a mid 19th-century door with what were apparently six recessed panels trimmed with applied moldings. The top two panels have been replaced with a line of three glass lights. The door surround consists of a simple enframing of wide, unadorned boards. Similarly, the windows have flat-board surrounds flush with the siding. The east and west gable-end elevations, which appear to have formerly had a symmetrical two-bay arrangement of openings aligned at first and second stories and a single 6/6 window in the gable peak, each have been slightly altered. The east wall has a wooden 20th-century, 6-light-over 2-panel door in the north portion, and the west gable end has two small mid 20th-century two-pane kitchen windows on the south part, rather than a single window. On the rear (north) wall, two 6/6's are aligned at each story, set somewhat off-center toward the east part of the wall.

Except for the two modern windows on the west gable end, all the windows are double-hung 6-over-6 sash. Some sash is of the mid 19th-century type with narrow ogee muntins; others are later 6/6 replacements. The exterior trim includes a molded, boxed cornice with returns on the gable ends, and narrow cornerboards. Below the eaves on the north and south walls is a prominent bed molding above a narrow friezeboard adorned with a narrow architrave molding. A molding with a similar profile trims the lower edge of the crown along the eaves and at the gable ends of the roof.

The large brick center chimney rises through the roof ridge. Three small box ventilators on the south front roof slope are a minor alteration of the late 20th century.

Interior, first story. The house is arranged on a conventional two-room-deep, center-chimney plan, with a lobby entrance with three-run stair in front of the chimney, a room to either side at each story, and, across the back, a broad center room with specialized spaces partitioned at either end. An enclosed rear stairway at the northeast corner ascends to the main rear second-story room. Between the stairway and the rear wall of the first-story southeast room is a vestibule leading to the northeast side entry. A small room in the northwest corner of the first story, now a combination pantry and lavatory, probably began as a bedroom, as did the small room above it at the second story, which was converted to a bathroom in the 1920s or 1930s.

The house as taxed in 1798 was one story and had nine windows containing 73 square feet of glass--a description that suggests it may have been a three- or five-bay Cape-Cod house at that time. Features of the building frame provide evidence that the building was raised from one story shortly after 1800. One-story-high posts with flared ("gunstock") shoulders are detectable under later casings at both rear corners.

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While the flare is not readily obvious in the front posts, they project deeply into the rooms, suggesting that a gunstock post may be hidden inside the straight vertical casing at each front corner. In addition, the front and rear first-story girts (formerly the plates) are planed and carved with a fine beveled chamfer with lamb's-tongue stop—a finish detail that is characteristic of First Period-style framing that had gone out of fashion well before 1750. Such decorative features raise the question of whether the first story of this house, which is referred to as late as 1784 as “Levi Wetherbee’s new house,” was actually standing in the second quarter of the 18th century, and if so, whether “new” may mean that it was moved to the farm from another location.

Contrary to the First Period character of the lower frame, most of the surviving first-story finish of the house is of a type consistent with the latter part of the 18th- and early part of the 19th centuries. With the exception of the front and rear girts, the posts, end girts, and the east-west summer beams in the front rooms are covered by casings—some beaded, some plain. The walls and the rest of the ceilings are plastered. The southwest room has been altered by its 20th-century conversion to a kitchen employing the reuse of some earlier material (such as the cabinet door made from the lower half of an 18th-century paneled door), and its east fireplace wall is covered with mid 20th-century imitation brick. In the southeast and north rooms, however, fireplaces remain relatively intact.

In the southeast parlor, the fireplace was blocked in for a stovepipe and the trim updated toward the middle of the 19th century. (Photo 10.) Its mantelpiece is a simple composition of very wide boards, including a broad frieze and a thick mantel shelf backed by a low board with a raised center section, which probably indicates a remodeling date between 1830 and 1860. A wide doorway with a pair of 3/3 paneled doors in the north wall of the parlor appears to be an alteration of the early 20th century.

The large fireplace in the rear original kitchen has angled sidewalls (Photo 11 and 12.) Its bake oven is located just west and outside of the main firebox. The mantel, which has a peaked board above a simple mantel shelf similar to that in the southeast parlor, probably represents another mid 19th-century renovation. The kitchen fireplace wall is finished with horizontal planed boards, which are also used in a pair of doors to a cabinet above the fireplace. Other walls of the rear section of the house—the east end wall, and portions of the rear wall inside a large L-shaped corner cupboard, are covered with horizontal paneling embellished with a very narrow bead. Vertical beaded board of the same type forms the east wall of the little northwest room, and also encloses the back stairway in the northeast corner.

Doors to the front lobby entrance from the rooms on either side are a 4-panel late 18th-century type, with the panel raised on one side and recessed on the other, and hung on H-and-L hinges. The closed-string, three-run stair has a typical Federal-period balustrade of square dowels placed on the diagonal, a heavy molded railing, and 3 1/2" square newel posts.

Second story. The character of much of the second story is more elaborate and formal than the first, and includes many elements of the fully developed Federal style—a decorative vocabulary consistent with the raising of the building to two stories in the early years of the 19th century. The ceilings at this story are fully plastered, with no summer beams visible in the rooms; the corner posts have beaded casings.

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The finely executed woodwork in the two front upstairs rooms indicates the important status of the early 19th-century owners, and suggests the presence in the Boxborough area of a highly skilled carpenter and joiner. Here the doors are 6-panel, with the raised-panel side facing the rooms. They are hung on H-hinges, and have broad, molded casings. The woodwork in the southwest chamber includes a large ogee crown molding. The small fireplace in that room (closed over for a stovepipe) has a low Federal mantel with a line of diamond cut-outs adorning the frieze.

The southeast chamber is the most stylish room in the house, with an even larger and more elaborate cornice than that in the southwest chamber. (Photo 5.) The walls are ringed with a beaded-board dado trimmed with a molded baseboard at the bottom and a line of finely-carved vertical reeding under a molded chair rail at the top. The mantelpiece of the small brick fireplace is an outstanding example of Federal-style carving. The frieze is decorated with squares of alternating vertical and horizontal reeding, and above it is a line of vertical reeding under a simple mantel shelf. The molding of the fireplace surround matches that at the doorways.

The presence of such stylish Federal woodwork consistent with detailing seen in houses of ca. 1800-1815 in the Boxborough area raises the question of whether Levi and Dorothy Wetherbee's son-in-law, cabinetmaker Samuel Stevens, may have executed some of it after his marriage to their daughter Lucy in 1814. Future comparisons with woodwork in other buildings in the vicinity may help to determine who the carpenter may have been.

The south wall of the large rear second-story room has a tiny fireplace with a molded surround, and a door to a narrow closet beside it hung on H-and-L hinges. (Photo 13.)

Hardware throughout the building includes H- and H-and-L hinges, Suffolk latches, and 19th-century cast-iron latches and ceramic knobs. Iron cranes remain in the rear kitchen fireplace.

Attic and cellar structure. The attic and cellar reveal much about the post-and-beam, stud-framed building. The roof is a rafter-and-purlin type, with heavy hewn rafters, 6 x 6" in their upper sections, tenoned into a five-sided ridge purlin. Five sets of hewn purlins, continuous from one end of the roof to the other, are set into trenches on the outside of the rafters, and support vertically-oriented roof boards. From each tie-beam, a short brace rises at an angle to the rafter above it, where it is tenoned into the timber. The rear plate, except for a splice near the center, measures 9" x 9". There are indications that the area around the chimney was altered at an early date, and that the chimney, though still substantial in size, may have been reduced somewhat in circumference. A short purlin in front of the chimney has a rough, concave rear side, suggesting that the chimney once rested against it—raising the question of whether the front of the building may have been raised before the rear section.

A cellar with an unmortared fieldstone foundation exists under the entire building except for the center area from the fieldstone chimney base to the rear wall. One notable feature is the rectangular niche located in the east side of the chimney base. The niche measures about a foot high, and has a dressed-granite lintel and a large stone for a base.

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The east part of the cellar floor is paved with large flat stones. The first-floor joists in the front part of the house are primarily heavy sleepers running in an east-west direction, approximately 6 by 6 inches in dimension, placed about 28" on center. The under sides of the subfloor boards visible beneath the southwest room are planed. Beneath the rear room the joists run north to south, and the sub-flooring there is vertical-sawn.

In the 20th century, Steele family members literally left their mark on the cellar. In the cement of the concrete bulkhead, which projects south from the west part of the front foundation wall, Russell and Thomas Steele inscribed the following: "1946 RBS-TAS." Occasional repairs were made to the cellar framing, and on one replaced section of a girt, "1940-Russell" is burned into the wood.

Steele Barn 1941 (MHC #4; Map #2, Photos 1, 3, 6.) Thomas A. Steele, builder.

The 36' x 42' barn, originally built as an apple barn, stands with its main gable facing the short driveway which runs past the east end of the house from Middle Road. The building is of stud construction utilizing modern dimensioned lumber, and is sided with clapboard. The gabled roof is asphalt shingle; the foundation is largely concrete and fieldstone.

The east wall of the foundation incorporates the upper portion of two small slate 18th-century gravestones (Map #11; Photos 14 and 15) reported to be from two Wetherbee family graves in the North Burying Ground. According to local residents, the two markers were among the stones displaced by the 1938 hurricane, and were brought onto the property by the Steeles. Both are small shouldered stones, about 9 inches wide. The northernmost is decorated with a schematic sunflower motif, set into a circle, in the tympanum and on each shoulder. The other stone, located south of the doorway, has an expertly carved cherub or angel's head flanked by wings. No inscriptions are visible on either stone.

The barn stands on part of the site and foundation of a slightly larger barn that burned down. The north side of that earlier barn was built into the hillside, and it had a cellar that was open to the south, where the present barn now has a full foundation wall. Some parts of the old fieldstone foundation- or barnyard walls extend south of the building, where they serve to fence in the manure area, which presently is paved with deteriorating concrete.

The fenestration of the barn includes five stanchion windows along the lower part of the south wall (two 6-pane windows and three with two panes divided horizontally), two more 6-pane windows on the north wall, and one 2/2 in the center of the west elevation. A 6/6 window occupies each gable peak. The main vehicle entry, centered in the east gable end, has a large two-part sliding, exterior-mounted door of tongue-and-groove vertical boards. A 3/3-sash window is located south of the doorway, and a fixed 6-pane window occupies the wall north of the door. Two walk-in doors are located at each end of the

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north elevation. The one at the west has 8 panes over panels; the door at the east, which formerly opened onto a short passage to the demolished milkhouse, is a batten door of tongue-and-groove vertical boards. Another narrow entry with a wooden door located just west of center in the south wall was used for manure disposal.

The first story of the barn interior is arranged in three equal aisles, with two sets of 8-inch-square wooden posts carrying heavy front-to-back beams on either side of the broad center aisle. Most of the space retains its deteriorating coat of paint or whitewash. The south aisle was used as the cow tie-up after Burpee F. Steele bought his brother's cows in about 1946. The manure gutter in the concrete floor there has recently been filled in with concrete, but the framework of the cow stanchions remains. The loft flooring on exposed joists forms a ceiling over all of the first floor space except the front portion of the center aisle. From there, the roof structure of two sets of 2 x 4" rafters, one above the other, is visible. The lower and upper rafters meet at a single purlin, where the joint is reinforced with a triangular-board brace at each set of rafters. A short collar tie spans each upper rafter pair just below the roof ridge. There is no ridge pole, but the metal ridge track for hoisting hay or apple boxes is still in place.

Richardson Icehouse, ca. 1904 (MHC #5, Map #3, Photos 1 and 7.)

In the late 1990s, volunteers from the Boxborough Historical Society dismantled a small ca. 1904 gable-roofed icehouse on the George Richardson Farm on Stow Road, and reassembled it on this property. It stands now in the position where a shed of about the same size stood in the 1940s and '50s. During the process of reconstruction, about two feet of the lower posts and walls had to be removed due to deterioration. The outer walls are clad in wood shingles, some of which still bear their red paint. After the building was moved the roofing was replaced with wood shingles; and the west side wall was rebuilt. Typical of an icehouse, the little building had inner walls of chestnut boards nailed to the inside of the studs. Those boards are presently stored in the barn, awaiting reinstallation. Also typical of a turn-of-the-century icehouse, the building has no windows, and there are three narrow, vertical-board doors, one above the other, in the center of the north gable-end wall. Projecting above them at the gable peak is a horizontal bracket attached to the ridge pole, where the hoist for the ice blocks was mounted. Despite being recently moved, the icehouse retains its integrity and contributes to the nomination as an example of a type of building that was once found on this property.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently located on the Levi Wetherbee Farm, sites may be present. Three sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. Well-drained, level to moderately sloping terraces, and other landforms are located throughout the farm in close proximity to streams, ponds, and swamplands. An unnamed stream with connected farm ponds drain southerly through the central portion of the property to wetlands

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in the southern part of the farm. The unnamed stream is a tributary of Beaver Brook and the Merrimack River. Given the information presented above, the size of the farm, and known Native settlement information for the Merrimack River drainage and the uplands of north central Massachusetts, a high potential exists for locating ancient Native American sites on the nominated property. Smaller campsites and special purpose type sites may characterize most potential sites in the area.

A high potential also exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Levi Wetherbee Farm. Structural evidence and construction features may exist from building the Wetherbee House, its partial movement to the property in ca. 1750 and/or renovations made after the house was built. Structural evidence may also survive from at least two barns, a ca. 1950 milk house, a number of 18th through 20th century outbuildings, and a stone structure southwest of the house. The existing Steele Barn is located on the site of an earlier and larger barn. Portions of the earlier barn's foundation wall may exist in the area today. The east wall of the Steele Barn's foundation also incorporates two gravestones originally located on Wetherbee Family graves in the North Burial Ground. Most early outbuilding locations are unknown; however, a number of 20th century sheds were reportedly taken down when the Town of Boxborough purchased the farm in 1994. A concrete slab north of the Steele barn marks the site of a ca. 1950 milk house demolished in the 1990s. The stone structure southwest of the house reportedly marks the site of a tunnel that led from the house cellar to the bank above the pond. The structure may have been used as a root cellar. Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist in the area surrounding the house, barns, and outbuildings.

(end)

Levi Wetherbee Farm

Name of Property

Middlesex, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

mid-18th century to 1956

Significant Dates

1784

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

house: unknown

barn: Thomas A. Steele

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Levi Wetherbee Farm, which includes over 36 acres of a sweeping cultural/agricultural landscape and a farmstead with an enlarged 18th-century farmhouse and a pair of early 20th-century outbuildings, meets Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level. The complex meets Criterion A for its role in over 200 years of the development of the rural landscape and the agricultural economy of Boxborough, and for its occupancy by members of longtime local families who shaped the town's development in every historical period. The property was farmed by two generations of Wetherbees from at least the late 18th through the mid-19th centuries, and subsequently by Wetherbee in-laws Phineas Houghton and Ephraim B. Cobleigh from 1856 to 1906. It evolved into one of the most productive farms in 20th century Boxborough under the Steele family, when it was the orchard and dairy farm of Burpee Clark Steele and his son, Burpee Franklin Steele.

The farm meets Criterion C for its well-preserved surviving architectural and agricultural resources from several historic periods. The 18th-century farmhouse, apparently enlarged at the turn of the 19th century, is an excellent example of a three-bay, center-chimney house raised from one to two stories. The building displays a continuum of intact interior finish ranging from chamfered beams at the first story to high-style Federal woodwork in the two front chambers. The extant barn is an instructive example of an early 1940s apple barn refitted for dairy farming, and the little Richardson Icehouse, though moved to the site, represents the survival of a rapidly vanishing local building type of the early 20th century. The farm landscape, with its small farm pond, fieldstone walls, causeway, cart path, fields of hay, remaining groves of cultivated Christmas trees and a few lingering apple trees, retains an abundance of evidence of having been in continuous agricultural use for over two centuries.

In spite of some alterations to the house, some changes over time in the type of agriculture pursued, and the loss of two older barns and the mid-20th century milkhouse, the farm retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Background and early history.

According to deed and genealogical research by local historians, in the second half of the 18th century this property, lying just east of what was to become the town center of Boxborough, was part of the large holdings of **Silas Wetherbee**, a grandson of John Wetherbee, II of Stow, one of Boxborough's original settlers, who in the late 17th century had owned a major portion of the land that ultimately became the town of Boxborough. In 1775, Silas Wetherbee gave three acres on Hill Road opposite the head of Middle Road to be used as a meetinghouse and burial ground site for the new town that he and 17 other outlying farmers of Stow, Harvard, and Littleton hoped to establish. That year, having formed a new religious society, they acquired the old meetinghouse in Harvard, dismantled it, and began to reconstruct it overlooking the intersection of Hill and Middle Roads. In 1783, the District of Boxborough was officially established, with the meetinghouse at its approximate center.

A few farmhouses were standing near the meetinghouse in February of 1784, when Silas sold his son **Levi Wetherbee** (1748-1829) 60 acres of land, a house, half of a building referred to as the "old house," and half

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of a barn, all located down the hill to the east of the meetinghouse, on today's Middle Road. The bulk of the property conveyed was located a short distance east of the nominated farm. (The "old house," which stood on that east section, is a reference to what had been Levi's prior residence, a two-story dwelling with only two small windows. That part of the property was sold to another farmer in 1787.) The second house mentioned in the deed from Levi's father is understood to be to this farmhouse at 484 Middle Road. As recorded in the 1798 federal Direct Tax census, it was then only one story, but larger in footprint than the other house, with many more windows and a higher value. Town records of 1784 show that in the latter part of that year Middle Road was laid out leading west from a point near "Levi Wetherbee's old house," past his "new house," over a small brook, and from there to the common. By 1798 Levi Wetherbee had apparently acquired more land, as in that year he is listed as owning 55 acres on both sides of "the road leading east from the meetinghouse and common."

Along with his father, Levi Wetherbee was one of the founders of Boxborough, having been one of the subscribers in the purchase of the former Harvard meetinghouse. He and his wife Dorothy (Taylor) had five children. Two died young, and two later resided on the farm as adults. One of the latter was their youngest son, John Wetherbee. The other was their daughter, Lucy (b. 1791), who married cabinetmaker Samuel Stevens in 1814. They subsequently moved to Marlborough, and then lived in Bolton for several years. After her husband died in about 1825, Lucy and her young son, Levi Wetherbee Stevens (b. 1815), moved back to the farm to live with her parents, where they remained until Levi Stevens' marriage in 1841.

Levi Wetherbee owned the farm until his death in 1829, whereupon it came into the possession of his son, **John Wetherbee** (1800-1858). Also known as John Wetherbee II, he married Mrs. Susannah (Hayward) Fairbanks in 1838. The Wetherbee farmhouse must have been somewhat crowded for the next several years, when the household included at least six people, and in some years more. Susannah Wetherbee brought with her two sons from her two former marriages, and Lucy and Levi Stevens were still living there as well. Three more daughters were born to John and Susannah between 1843 and 1850.

John Wetherbee was the Second Lieutenant of the Boxborough Light Infantry Company at the time of its founding around 1838-1840. Levi Stevens was also a member of the company. In 1850, John Wetherbee's farm was valued at \$5,000. Like most Boxborough farmers of the time, he was still engaged in general farming, raising some livestock and a variety of grains, though he produced 300 pounds of cheese in that year—an indication that he also had developed a specialty in dairying. He is not listed as having any orchards at that time.

A few years later, John Wetherbee gave up farming. He sold the farm, and in 1855 moved with his family to West Acton. In 1856, after a period of several months when the property was owned by a neighbor, Benjamin W. Priest, the Wetherbee farm, apparently reduced by about 20 acres, was acquired by farmer **Phineas Houghton** (1815-1886), who owned it for the next six years. His first wife, Sally (Taylor), had died in 1851, and by the time he bought the farm, he was remarried to Mary A. Wetherbee, daughter of neighboring farmer and Wetherbee relation Andrew Wetherbee. In 1860 the Houghtons, like John and Susannah Wetherbee before them, were engaged in a form of mixed agriculture. While the overall value of the farm had declined to \$3,000, Mr. Houghton had developed something of a specialty in livestock, gaining the second-highest butchering income in town from the animals he slaughtered.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetLevi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MASection number 8 Page 3

In 1862-63, the farm was owned briefly by another Wetherbee relative, **Daniel Wetherbee**. In 1863 it was acquired by another man who married into the Wetherbee family, **Ephraim Brown Cobleigh** (1833-1906). Descended from a longtime local farming family, he lost his mother when he was twelve, and by the age of 17 had left Boxborough to find work. After a brief employment at a shoe factory in Bolton, he traveled through the southern states for several months. In 1852 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and spent five adventurous years in the cavalry with Co. B., 2nd Regiment Artillery. During his time in the cavalry he took part in the so-called "Navajo War" in New Mexico, went on scouting expeditions with Kit Carson and "Mexican Jack," and barely escaped from captivity at an Indian camp. In 1855 he was a member of a party of soldiers who surveyed the route of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Ephraim Cobleigh returned to Boxborough in 1857, and by 1860 he had taken up shoe manufacturing on a small scale. In 1861 he married eighteen-year-old Rosella Wetherbee, daughter of Capt. Andrew Wetherbee (Levi Wetherbee's grand-nephew, and Daniel Wetherbee's brother). Rosella died in childbirth in 1864, shortly after they bought the farm. Ephraim later married Salinda Holden of Shirley--apparently the young domestic servant listed as part of the Cobleigh household on the census of 1865.

Ephraim Cobleigh served the town in a variety of positions in the latter part of the 19th century. He was Town Clerk for over a dozen years, and Selectman for at least fifteen years. He was also one of the last proprietors of the "Bigelow Store," the large general store on Hill Road at the town common. Like most of his neighbors, however, he was primarily a farmer during the prosperous local agricultural economy that developed through the latter part of the 19th century, a period when Boxborough's agricultural production was at its height. Mr. Cobleigh was one of Boxborough's most progressive farmers and the principal founder of one of its two important agricultural organizations, the Boxborough Farmer's Club. The club was organized here in the farmhouse on March 2, 1874, with Mr. Cobleigh as the first President, a position that he held for the next ten years. He also served as the club's Treasurer for at least two years. (Other officers included his first father-in-law and two of his brothers.)

Under Ephraim Cobleigh's ownership, the old farm typified the specialization and increased productivity taking place in many Massachusetts agricultural towns after the Civil War. Although by the time he bought the farm in 1863 it had been reduced to 36 acres and was not among the largest in Boxborough, it soon became one of the most profitable, as its owner took advantage of improvements in agricultural technology and of the broadening markets of the post-Civil War period. By 1870, like many Boxborough farmers, Mr. Cobleigh was still growing a variety of grains, producing butter, and had a substantial orchard, but he had also expanded into market gardening, for which his profit was the highest in town in that year. By 1880, while he still engaged in market gardening and like his neighbors was selling milk from his cows to the Boston market; he had greatly expanded his fruit production as well. He had orchards of both apples and pears; in fact, of the five Boxborough farmers who had pear orchards, at 300 trees, his was by far the largest. Raising grapes had become a popular specialty in Boxborough by that time, as well, and in 1879, of the fifteen farmers who had vineyards, he had the second highest production—3,000 pounds.

Ephraim Cobleigh died in 1906, and for the next two years the farmhouse was apparently unoccupied except for a flock of chickens roosting in the second-story rooms. In 1908, the property was sold out of the family when it was purchased by **Burpee Clark Steele**, who owned it for the next seventeen years. "B. C." Steele had immigrated from Nova Scotia to Boxborough in 1886. He quickly became widely known for his

(continued)

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Continuation SheetLevi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MASection number 8 Page 4

extensive apple orchards at a time when Boxborough, like several of the surrounding towns, was reaching the height of its reputation as an apple-growing community. At their peak, his orchards are said to have extended east as far as Liberty Square Road in the east part of town. A promoter as well as a grower, Mr. Steele used one of the first motorized trucks in town to transport apples to Boston, where he marketed them himself. A newspaper article about the opening of the new municipal market in Boston's South End highlighted B. C. Steele and his "big motor truck" delivering the market's first load of apples, from which Boston Mayor James Michael Curley and City Councilman John J. Attridge bought a box each.

B. C. Steele was one of the first school-bus drivers in Boxborough (some say he was the first), beginning with a horse-drawn "barge" and progressing to a motorized bus. He is also credited with rigging up the first road plow, and was a Boxborough highway surveyor for many years. An accomplished sawyer, during World War I Mr. Steele served with a group of local men as part of the American Forestry Expeditionary Forces in Scotland and France--a civilian force that went to northern Scotland in 1917 to cut timber for the British government. One of B. C.'s sons, Clifton Steele, also saw action during the war, and narrowly survived the sinking of his troop ship *Tuscania*.

Over the years, as the Steele children grew up, the entire family was involved in farming, both in their parents' orchards and for some of them, on their own farms nearby. B. C. Steele's first wife, Martha Jane (Walker), and two of their ten children died of typhoid fever when the farm's well was contaminated in 1911. An infant daughter died a year later. In 1913, Mr. Steele married Florence Dodge, who survived him after his death in 1929.

In 1925, however, B. C. Steele conveyed the farm to his son, **Burpee Franklin ("B. F.") Steele**, who had taken over its management in 1923. B. F. Steele had married Myrtle Monsen of Concord a year earlier, and they continued to operate an extensive apple-growing business on the old farm. They had weathered most of the Great Depression when disaster struck the farm in September 1938, when the Great Hurricane destroyed the main barn where both the town school buses and the year's main apple crop were stored. In 1941 the Steeles replaced the damaged barn with the present one a short distance to the north, on the site of another barn which had burned down several years earlier. The new building was constructed by Burpee Franklin's brother Thomas A. Steele, one of the most prolific mid-20th century builders in the Boxborough area.

To pick apples during the years of the Second World War, like other farmers in the area, the Steeles employed German prisoners who were housed at nearby Fort Devens. After the war, however, it became increasingly difficult to find employees to work the orchards, and the Steeles branched out into dairy farming. Another brother, Wilbur (Bill), in spite of having been disabled in a serious sawmill accident, had kept cows on a neighboring farm. In about 1946, after Bill's growing paralysis from rheumatoid arthritis prevented him from caring for his animals, Burpee F. Steele bought the cows and housed them on the ground floor of his new barn. In about 1950, their brother Tom constructed the small gable-roofed, clapboard milkhouse, of which the stone and concrete base remains just off the northeast corner of the present barn. Dairying, and some beef-cattle raising, continued on the farm until 1966.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Levi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MA**Section number 8 Page 5

Burpee Franklin Steele succeeded his father as both a school-bus driver and highway surveyor. He was closely involved with Boxborough's roads until the day he died, when in May of 1977 he suffered a heart attack while clearing away a tree broken by a freak snowstorm.

After B. F. Steele died, his son, Russell Steele, raised Christmas trees on part of the farm for a number of years. In 1991, Myrtle Steele moved away, and in 1994 the family sold the farm, including the entire remaining 36 acres, the old Wetherbee farmhouse, the Steele barn, milkhouse, and a few sheds, to the Town of Boxborough.

Since that time, the upkeep and management of the property have been overseen by a town advisory committee, with most of the maintenance being done by community volunteers. The milkhouse and three small sheds were torn down in the mid-1990s, but in the late '90s, the ca. 1904 icehouse from the Richardson Farm in the south part of town was moved to a site just south of the barn.

Today, under the name Steele Farm, the Levi Wetherbee Farm is used for passive recreation, and some of the land is still mown for hay. The barn is presently used for general town storage, and plans are underway to utilize the house, barn, and icehouse for public historical/educational purposes, and to lease some of the land to livestock owners for pasturage.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Boxborough are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Although numerous ancient sites have been identified within the Merrimack River drainage and its nearby tributaries, the Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet River drainages, fewer sites have been recorded along more inland tributary streams including the Beaver and River Meadow Brook drainages, possibly reflecting underreporting in this area or environmental differences in the drainages. Ancient Native American sites in the vicinity of the Levi Wetherbee Farm may contribute important information that identifies the range of functional and temporal variability between sites in the Beaver Brook drainage and their relationship to Native settlements along the main drainage of the Merrimack River and its major tributaries. Information may also be present that clarifies the relationship and regional importance of sites and resources along the Beaver Brook drainage to larger tributaries of the Merrimack River such as the Concord, Sudbury and Assabet River drainages. Ancient sites in the vicinity of the Levi Wetherbee Farm and the Beaver Brook drainage may represent a seasonal /functional aspect of a subsistence and settlement system that focuses on larger sites along the Merrimack River drainage and other tributaries listed above. Sites in this area can also contain evidence of exchange between more interior portions of the Merrimack River drainage and downstream coastal areas.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information related to the evolution of the farmstead from the 18th through 20th centuries, the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the farm's inhabitants, and the agricultural developments that made the farm one of the most productive in 20th century Boxborough.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Levi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MA**Section number 8 Page 6

Additional architectural research combined with archaeological survey and testing may contribute information that accurately defines the initial construction date for the house. Structural evidence from the house, construction features, and artifact evidence from the contents of occupational-related features may support or reject a pre-1750 construction date as indicated by finish details used in the first floor architecture. Similar architectural and archaeological evidence may also indicate that portions of the house were moved to the present location by 1750 or later. Information described above may also document changes that occurred to the house during major rebuilding in the early 19th century.

Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey, testing, and detailed mapping may also locate the sites of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features from the 18th through 20th centuries. While much of the information for 20th century structures is available, the location and function for 18th and 19th century structures is unknown. The internal configuration, function, and architectural details of barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features may have followed regional and local patterns of development through time that can be discerned through historical and archaeological resources. Understanding the farm's development during the 18th and 19th centuries may be important to fully understand its reputation as one of the most productive farms in 20th century Boxborough.

Additional historical research combined with detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute valuable insights into the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the families that occupied the farmstead for over two centuries. Isolated features and/or stratified archaeological deposits may exist that can be associated with different families or occupations at the house. The above information may indicate how the social and cultural aspects of specific families changed with the evolving agricultural economy of the farm, town, and region. Important information may exist that documents agricultural technologies in use and whether cottage industry type manufacturing supplemented the agricultural economy.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Levi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Books and articles

Drake, Samuel. *History of Middlesex County*. Boston: Estes & Lauriat, 1880.

Hager, Lucie C., "Boxborough," in Hurd, D. H. ed. *History of Worcester County, Mass.* Vol II.
Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1890.

_____. *Boxborough: a New England Town and its People*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1891.

Rohwer, Alan. The Steele House. n.d., Boxborough Historical Commission.

Talmadge, Katherine, et al. *Boxborough: a Portrait of a Town, 1783-1983*. Boxborough: Boxborough
Bicentennial Commission, 1983.

United States documents

U.S. Census: agricultural schedules for Boxborough: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

U.S. Direct Tax Census, 1798.

Massachusetts documents

Forbes, Anne M. Massachusetts Historical Commission: Wetherbee-Cobleigh-Steele Farm,
MHC Area Form, 2001.

Massachusetts Census: 1855, 1865.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Town of Boxborough, 1980.

Local resources

Boxborough Historical Society. Homes and Home Sites Study, 1960s-1970s. (file at Sargent Public Library.)

Forbes, Anne. Interviews with local residents, 2001: Lorna Steele Brown, Donald Morse, Owen Neville.

(end)

Levi Wetherbee Farm
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 36.19 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 292440 4707160
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 292680 4707120
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 292500 4706420
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 292380 4706440
Zone Easting Northing

5. 19 292300 4706640
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Forbes, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October, 2006

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Boxborough

street & number 29 Middle Road telephone 978-263-1116

city or town Boxborough state MA zip code 01719

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Levi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of the parcel shown as Parcel 7-3-125 on Town of Boxborough Tax Maps 10, 11, 17, and 18.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundaries encompass the 36.19-acre parcel that for generations comprised the Levi Wetherbee Farm. The parcel includes the surviving elements of the farmstead, as well as the complete agricultural landscape which is now largely hay meadow, wetlands, and the surviving stands of trees from a late 20th-century Christmas tree farm.

(End)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Levi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MA

Section number photos Page

PHOTOGRAPHS

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs by Anne Forbes, 2004.

8 x 10" photographs

1. Levi Wetherbee Farm, view northeast overlooking farmstead; farm pond in left center
2. Levi Wetherbee House, mid-18th C./ca. 1800-1815: south façade and east elevation
3. Levi Wetherbee House, mid-18th C./ca. 1800-1815: north elevation, with barn at rear
4. Levi Wetherbee House, mid-18th C./ca. 1800-1815: looking east, with north and west elevations
5. Levi Wetherbee House, mid-18th C./ca. 1800-1815: southeast chamber: fireplace wall
6. Levi Wetherbee Farm: Steele Barn (1941), with farmhouse in background, looking north

Supplementary photographs (4 x 6")

Landscape views:

7. View southeast over hay field, with Richardson ice house, (ca. 1904)
8. West cart path, looking south
9. Farm landscape, looking south

Interior views, Levi Wetherbee House:

10. Southeast parlor: fireplace wall
11. Rear kitchen, looking southwest
12. Rear kitchen, looking east
13. Rear chamber: fireplace wall

Gravestones in east barn foundation wall (2006)

14. North gravestone
15. South gravestone

Historic photo (photocopy)

Aerial view of Boxborough: Hill and Middle Roads. 1939. (Boxborough Historical Society).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLevi Wetherbee Farm
Boxborough (Middlesex), MASection number data Page

RESOURCE COUNT

C = contributing; NC = non-contributing
B = building; O = object; Si = site;
St = structure

MAP#	MHC #	NAME OR DESCRIPTION	DATE	STATUS	TYPE
1	BXB. 3	Levi Wetherbee House	mid-18 th C./ca. 1800-1815	C	B
2	BXB. 4	Steele Barn	1941	C	B
3	BXB. 5	Richardson Icehouse	ca. 1904	C	B
4	BXB. 902	farm landscape	18 th -21 st centuries	C	Si
5		farm pond	19 th -20 th centuries	C	Si
6		carpath	19 th -20 th centuries	C	St
7		system of stone walls	18 th -19 th centuries	C	St
8		underground tunnel/root cellar	19 th century	C	Si
9		milkhouse base	ca. 1950	C	Si
10		causeway	probably 19 th century	C	St
11		slate gravestone (in barn foundation)	18 th century	C	O
12		slate gravestone (in barn foundation)	18 th century	C	O

TOTAL RESOURCE COUNT:**Contributing****Non-contributing**

BUILDINGS

3

0

STRUCTURES:

3

0

OBJECTS:

2

0

SITES:

4

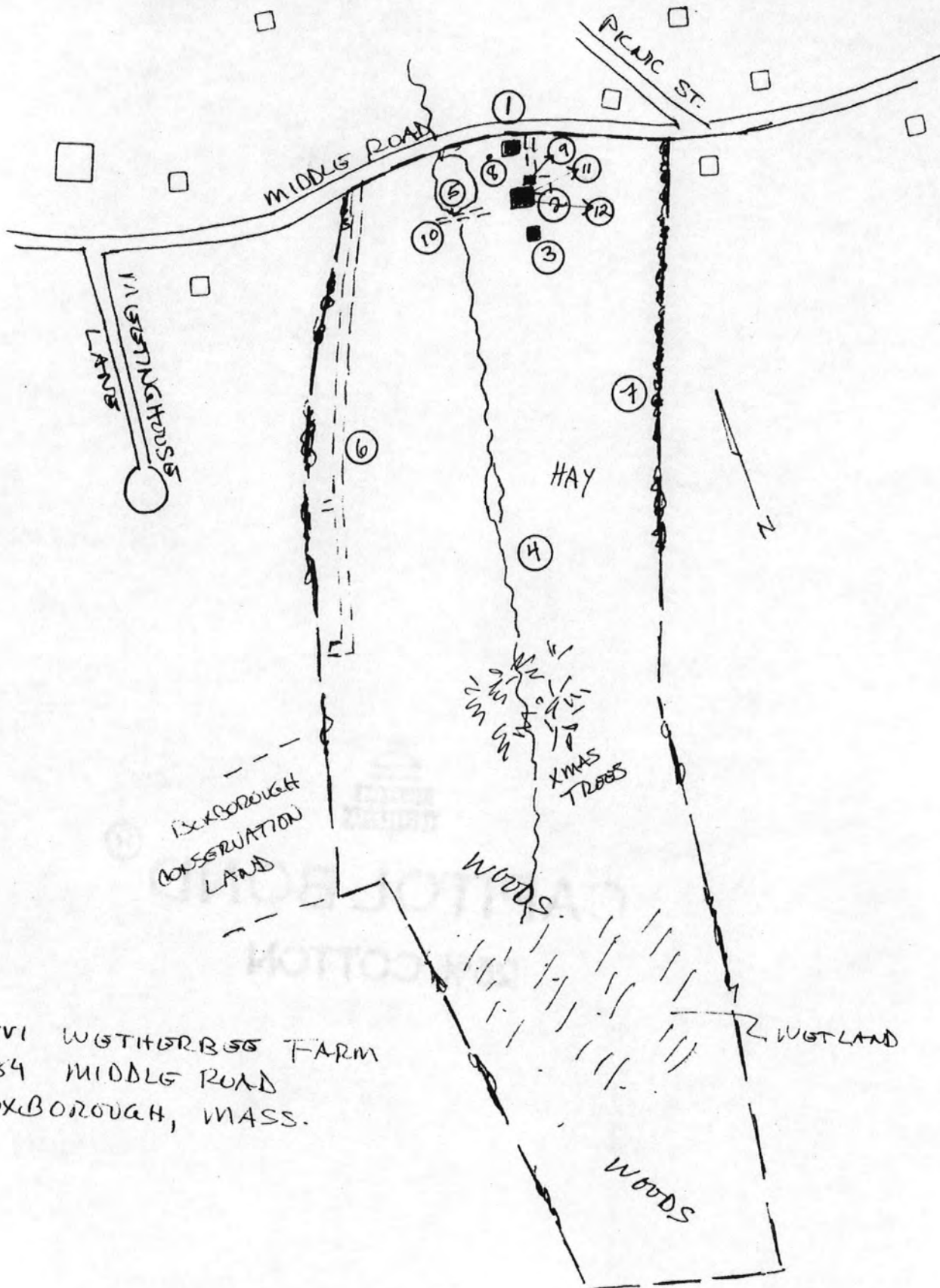
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TOTAL:

12

TOTAL:

0



LEVI WETHERBEE FARM
484 MIDDLE ROAD
BOXBOROUGH, MASS.

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

ROUTE 111



The abundance of apple trees in Boxborough is evident in this 1939 aerial photograph. The Middle Road orchards of Burpee F. Steele are shown in the lower right; further up the road is the Town Common and Library Hall. (Photo courtesy of Boxborough Historical Society; gift of E. A. Moore.)

AERIAL VIEW OF BOXBOROUGH: Hill and Middle Roads, 1939

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wetherbee, Levi, Farm
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/03/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/17/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/02/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/17/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001128

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/12/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



①

LEVI WOTHERS FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA



② LEVI WETHERS FARM
BOX BORDEN, MA



③ LEVI WETHERBEE FARM
Box 60024H, MA



④ LEVI WETHERBOS FARM
BORBOROUGH, MA



⑤ LEVI WATSON'S FARM
BOX BORDEN, MA



⑥ LEVI WETHERS FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA



⑦

LEVI WETHERBEE FARM

BOXBOROUGH, MA

(
III



HRK3 4/04 (011)
008 03 N N N N N N N N (038)

⑧ LEVI WETHERBOS FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA



⑨ LEVI WETHERBEE
FARM

BOXBOROUGH, MA

HRK3 4/04()007
008 03 N N N N 062 (038)



⑩ LEVI WETTERBOS FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA

19 < > N/ N/ 1-3

Creative Camera

0403



⑪ LEVI WETHERBEE FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA

near kitchen



⑫ LEN WETHERBEE FARM
BOXBOROUGH, MA

BM-11-2001124J751 0111 11 11

01-14



⑬ LEVI WITHERS FARM
ROXBOROUGH, MA

154-11/26611103751 0111 N I

01-6



14

Berkshire, MA

Levi Wetherbee Farm

8 < > N/ N/ N-1

Creative Camera

0606

BARN: Ditch greystone,
East Foundation Wall

MAY 2006



15

BOXBOROUGH, MA

LEVI WETHERBOS FARM

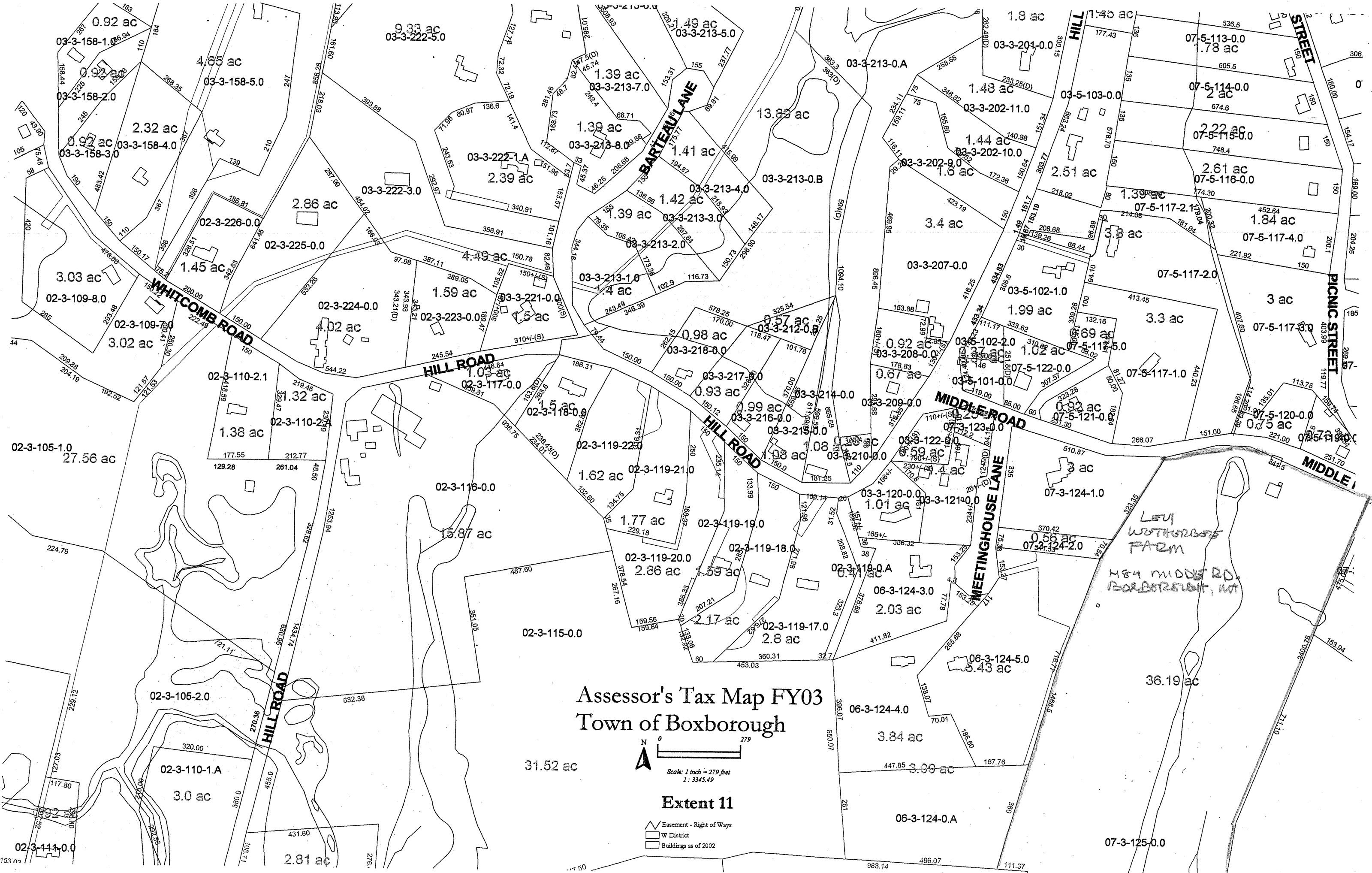
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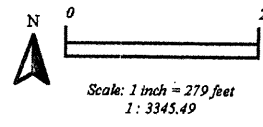
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BARN: South gravestone in
East Foundation Wall

MAY, 2006

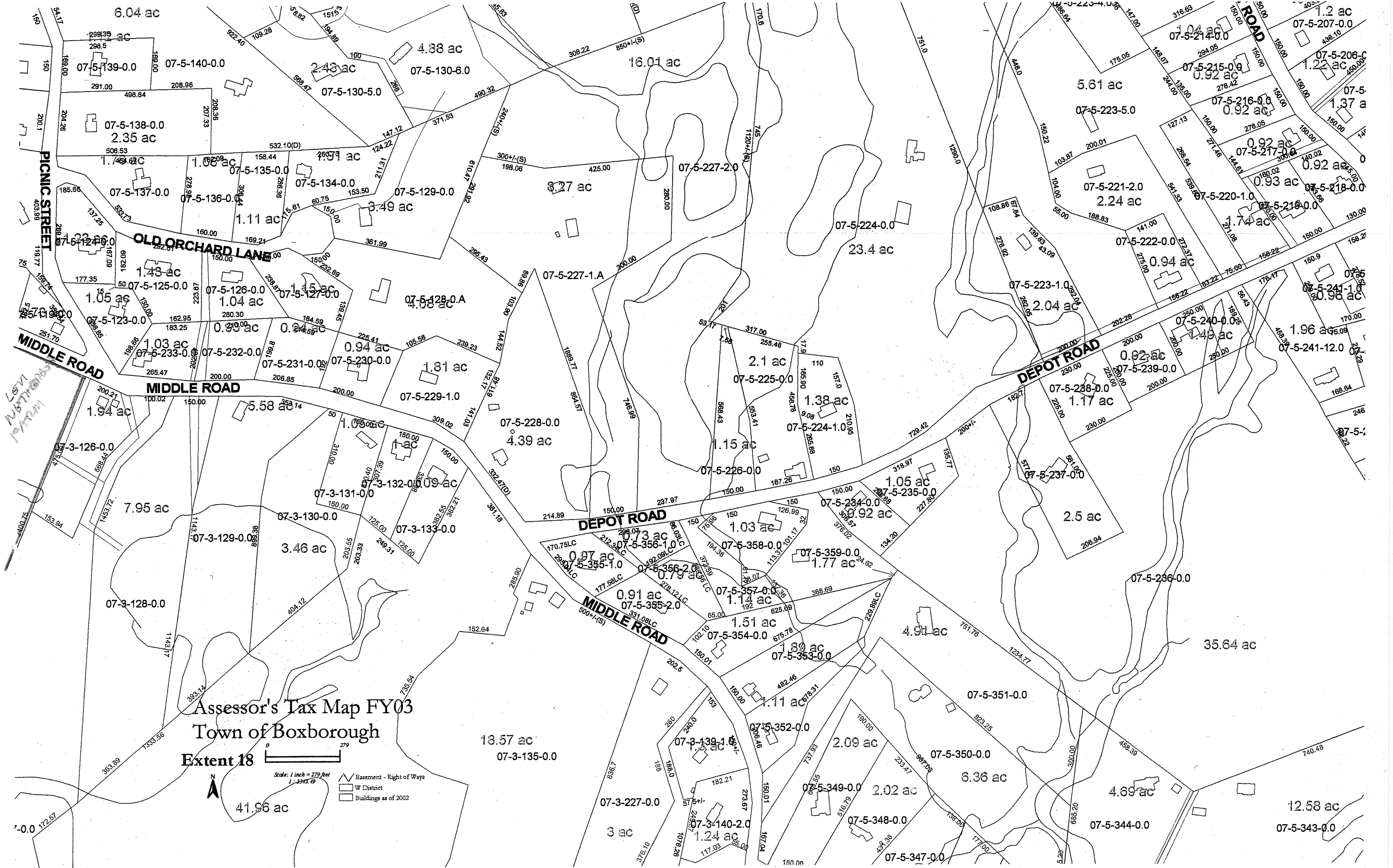


Assessor's Tax Map FY03
Town of Boxborough



Extent 11

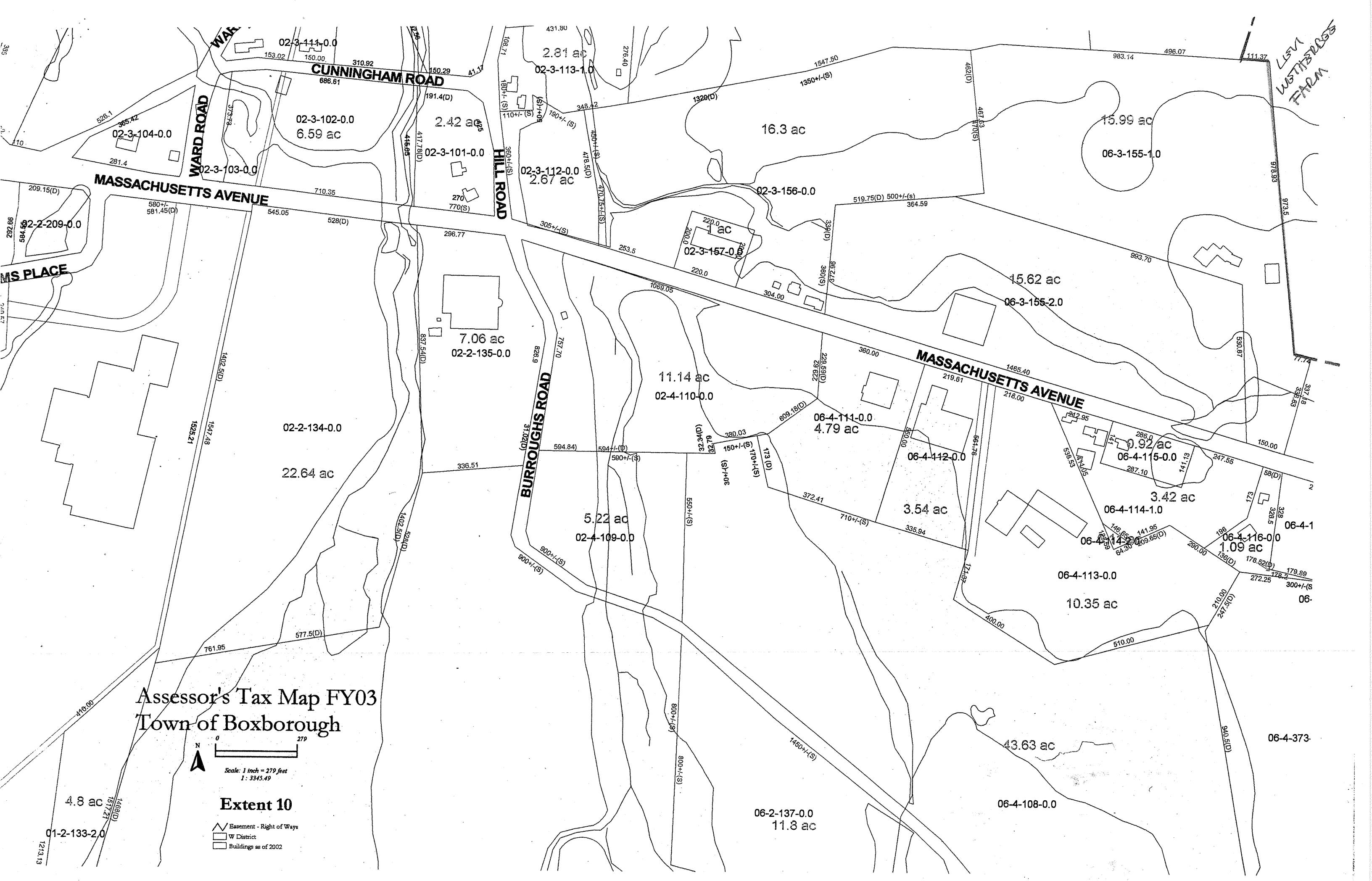
- Easement - Right of Ways
- W District
- Buildings as of 2002



Assessor's Tax Map FY03
Town of Boxborough
Extent 18

Scale: 1 inch = 279 feet
1:3345.49

Basement - Right of Ways
W District
Buildings as of 2002



LESLIE WESTBROOKS FARM

Assessor's Tax Map FY03 Town of Boxborough

N

0

279

Scale: 1 inch = 279 feet
1 : 3345.49

Extent 10

Easement - Right of Ways

W District

Buildings as of 2002

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06-2-137-0.0
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06-4-113-0.0
10.35 ac

06-4-116-0.0
1.09 ac

06-4-114-1.0
3.42 ac

06-4-115-0.0
0.92 ac

06-4-111-0.0
4.79 ac

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11.14 ac

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5.22 ac

02-2-135-0.0
7.06 ac

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22.64 ac

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15.62 ac

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1 ac

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2.67 ac

02-3-113-1.0
2.81 ac

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2.42 ac

02-3-102-0.0
6.59 ac

02-3-104-0.0

02-2-209-0.0

01-2-133-2.0

4.8 ac

Assessor's Tax Map FY03
Town of Boxborough
Extent 17 16.77 ac



Scale: 1 inch = 279 feet
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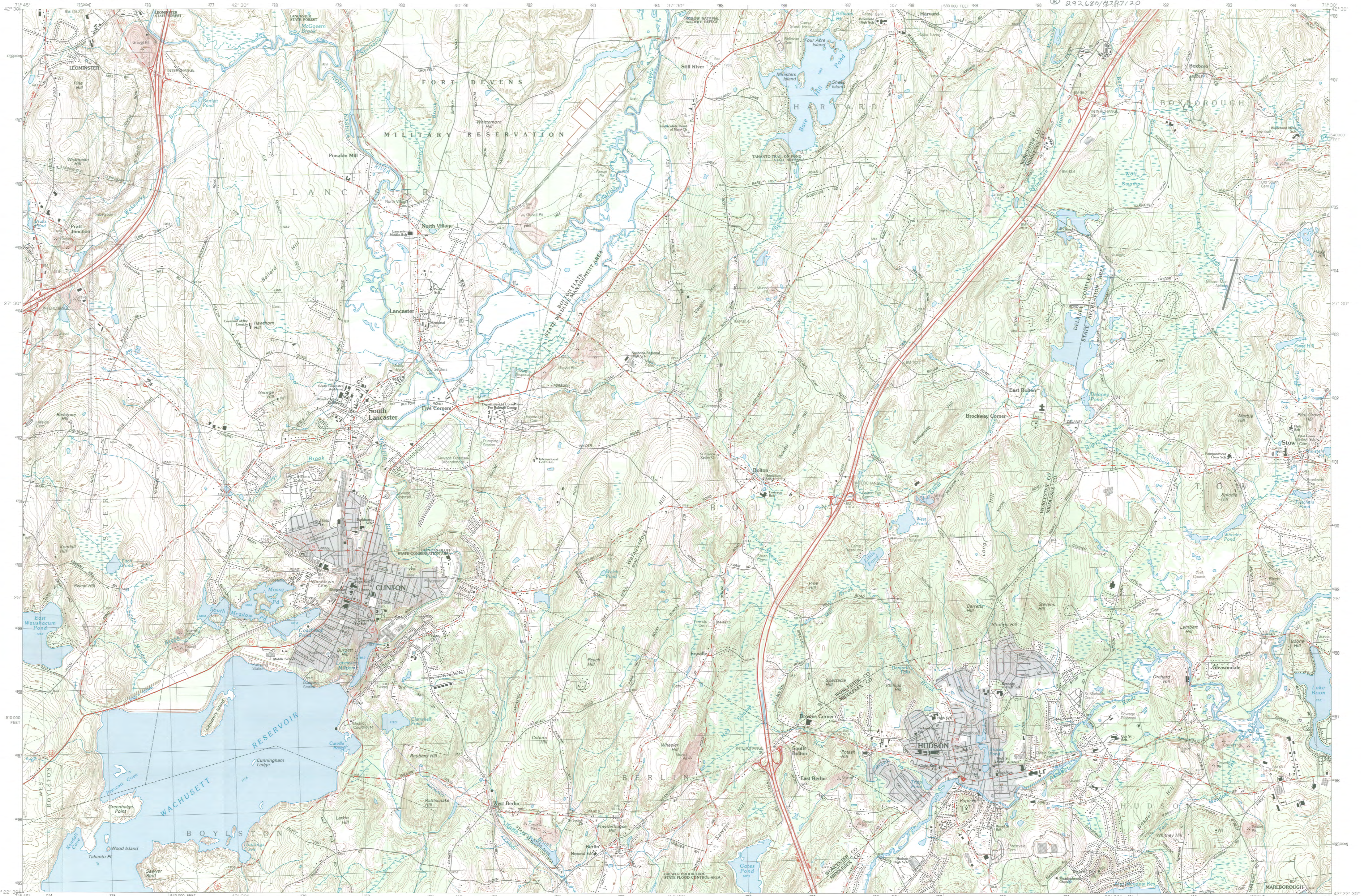
- Easement - Right of Ways
- W District
- Buildings as of 2002



LEVI WETHERBEE'S FARM
484 MIDDLE ROAD
BOXBOROUGH, MASS

Assessors of the Town of
Boxborough
Presented

HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS



INSTRUMENT: GEODETIC SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988

KILOMETERS 1 5 0 1 2 3 4

SCALE 1:25 000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

1000 0 2000 4000 6000 8000 10 000 12 000 14 000 16 000 FEET

HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

1997

Hudson
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1997

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Derived from imagery taken 1980 and other sources. Photorectified using imagery dated 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1991.

Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1998. North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19.

10 000-foot ticks. Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

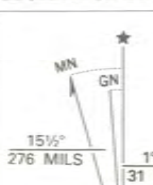
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet		1	2	3	
2	3.2808		4	5		
3	9.8425		6	7	8	
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5276					
10	32.8084					
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808				1 Fitchburg	2 Ayer	3 Billerica
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				4 Sterling	5 Maynard	6 Worcester North
			7 Marlborough	8 Framingham		

ISBN 0-607-69585-3



Topographic Map Symbols

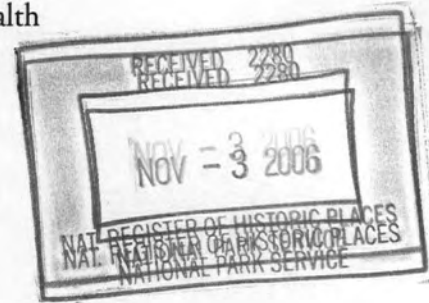
Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road; trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State	.....
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam, dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or ore	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	.....
Sounding; depth curve	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Swamp; marsh	.....
Submerged marsh; land subject to occasional inundation	.....
Woodland; scattered trees	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P. O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



November 3, 2006

Dr. John Roberts
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Levi Wetherbee Farm, 484 Middle Road, Boxborough (Middlesex Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Alan Rohwer, Boxborough Historical Commission
Leslie Fox, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Anne Forbes, consultant
Karen Metheny, Planning Board