

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Middlesex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1972	

1. NAME				
COMMON: Isaac Davis Trail				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Acton Trail				
2. LOCATION				
Congressional District 3				
STREET AND NUMBER: Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane and Main Street,				
CITY OR TOWN: Acton, Concord Strawberry Hill Road, Barrett's Mill Road, Barnes Hill Road.				
STATE Massachusetts		CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object		☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both		☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered		Yes: ☒ Restricted in part ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☒ Transportation ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____ ☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific _____ ☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____				
Comments _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Town of Acton, Town of Concord				
STREET AND NUMBER: Town Hall				
CITY OR TOWN: Acton, Concord		STATE: Massachusetts		CODE 025
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Middlesex County Registry of Deeds				
STREET AND NUMBER: Cambridge and Third Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Massachusetts		CODE 025
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission				
STREET AND NUMBER: Office of the Secretary, State House				
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		STATE: Massachusetts		CODE 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Mass.	COUNTY: Middlesex	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historic area of the Isaac Davis Trail consists of roadways owned by the Towns of Acton and Concord and of two easements over private property owned by the Town of Acton. Even though much of the route is over tarred roads, the six-mile Trail gives the impression of remaining just as it was on April 19, 1775, when Captain Davis led the Acton Company from his home to the Muster Field in Concord. The Trail gives this impression because the roads are lined by stone walls, woods and flora, and houses are set well back.

The Trail from Captain Davis' House in Acton moves in a northeasterly direction one and one-quarter miles along Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane and Main Street. It then turns and moves more easterly, one and one-half miles over the cart path and town easement to Strawberry Hill Road. Here it turns again and moves in a southerly direction for one and three-quarters miles along Strawberry Hill Road to Barrett's Mill Road, where it runs more easterly for three-quarters of a mile into Concord to Lowell Road. It then crosses Lowell Road and continues east/south-east for three-quarters of a mile along Barnes Hill Road, crossing Liberty Street to the Muster Field at the North Bridge.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☒ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) April 19, 1775

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) <u>holiday observance</u> |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☒ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Isaac Davis Trail is important both historically and symbolically. It is the route the Acton Company took on April 19, 1775, from Captain Isaac Davis' House (still standing) to the Muster Field near the Concord River. Here the men from the "Eighteen Towns" met to make the forward move across the Old North Bridge which began the American Revolution. When flames rose from Concord Village, it was Isaac Davis who gave the famous answer to Major Hosmer's question. Hosmer asked, "Will you let the town burn?" Davis replied, "I have not a man who is afraid to go." And he proved it by leading the Acton Company at the head of the line marching to the Bridge and being "the first to fall" of Longfellow's "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

The exact path of the historic march was mapped in 1896 by the son of a veteran of the "Concord Fight," whose father had taken him over the same route. Today thousands gather at Davis' House each year on the morning of Patriot's Day. Leaving at the time Davis started, they trudge the six miles to the Muster Field to re-enact the deeds of the Acton Company. And Acton reminds the world with each re-enactment that on that famous day her men were "Not afraid to go."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter to Lemuell Shattuck, Esq. of Boston from Josiah Adams, Esq. of Framingham. Boston: Damrell and Moore Printers, 1850.

Deposition of Solomon Smith, Middlesex County, July 10, 1835.

Tourtellot, Arthur B. Lexington and Concord. New York: W.W. Norton, 1959.

Maps:

Miscellaneous maps of Concord. Massachusetts State Archives.

Replica of the line of March of the Acton Minutemen, April 19, 1775.

Old North Bridge Society, Albert Woods Testimony, July, 1896.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42° 29' 38"	71° 25' 00"	0		
NE	42° 29' 38"	71° 23' 06"	0		
SE	42° 28' 04"	71° 23' 06"			
SW	42° 28' 04"	71° 25' 00"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.4 Acres (approx.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

12/14/71

STREET AND NUMBER:

Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☒ Local ☒

Name

John F. X. Davoren
JOHN F. X. DAVOREN

Title

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical

Date

Commission
December 28, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

4/11/72

ATTEST:

William H. Huntley
Keeper of The National Register

Date

APR 11 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UW REF.
A 19/306980/4706990
B 19/306880/4704140
C 19/398660/4704070
D 19/398770/4707860



Actor Trail - Strawberry Hill Road
Isaac Davis Trail

NPS Number April 11, 1972
Title: Isaac Davis Trail

Loc. Middlesex County, Mass
General view to the Northwest
on Strawberry Hill Road
in Concord

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: Isaac Davis Trail

AND/OR HISTORIC: Acton Trail

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane,
Main Street, Strawberry Hill Road, Barrett's Mill Road, Barnes Hill RoadCITY OR TOWN:
Acton, ConcordSTATE:
MassachusettsCODE
025COUNTY:
MiddlesexCODE
017

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: J. Michael Franceschi

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

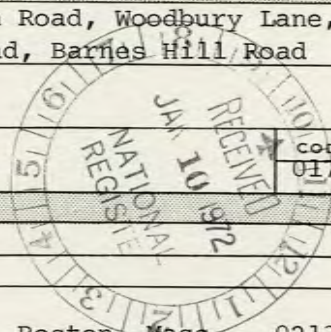
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Massachusetts Historical Commission, State House, Boston, Mass., 02133

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

general view to the northwest on Strawberry Hill Road in Concord



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Isaac Davis Trail
AND/OR HISTORIC: Acton Trail

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane,
Main Street, Strawberry Hill Road, Barrett's Mill Road, Barnes Hill Road
CITY OR TOWN: Acton, Concord

STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Concord Maynard

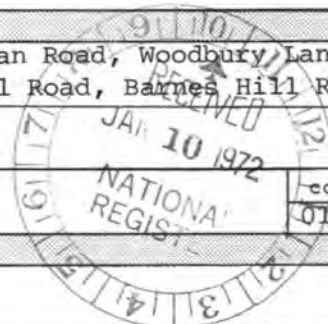
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1958 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



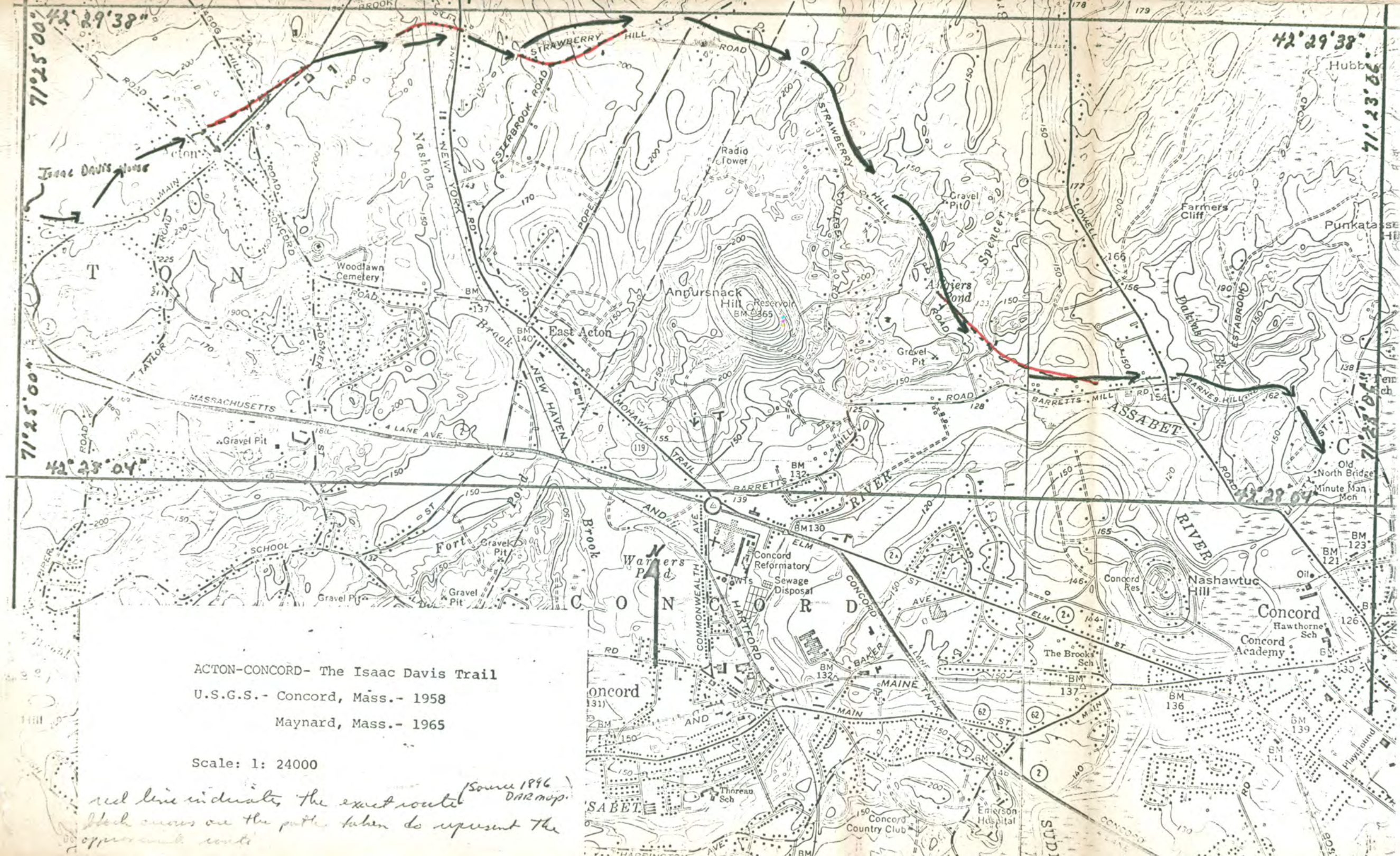
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

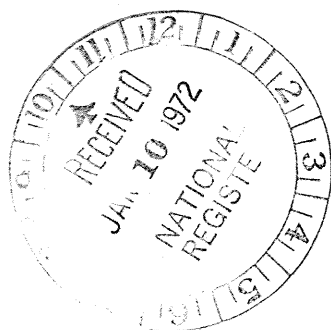


ACTON-CONCORD- The Isaac Davis Trail
 U.S.G.S.- Concord, Mass.- 1958
 Maynard, Mass.- 1965

Scale: 1: 24000

*red line indicates the exact route
 black arrows are the path taken to represent the
 approximate route*



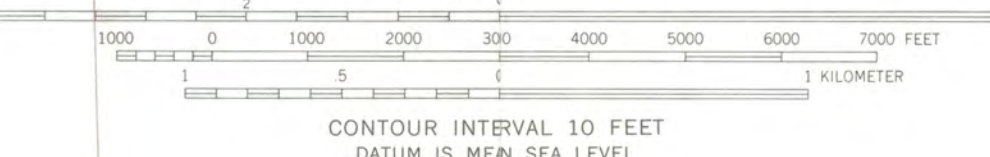
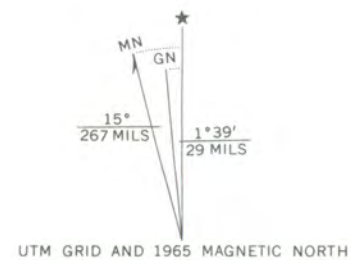




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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MAYNARD, MASS.
N4222.5—W7122.5/7.5
1965

AMS 6768 IV NW—SERIES V814

DAVIS, ISAAC TRAIL

1072 MAPS

4 A 2 B

UTM REF.

Zone 19

19/306980/4106910

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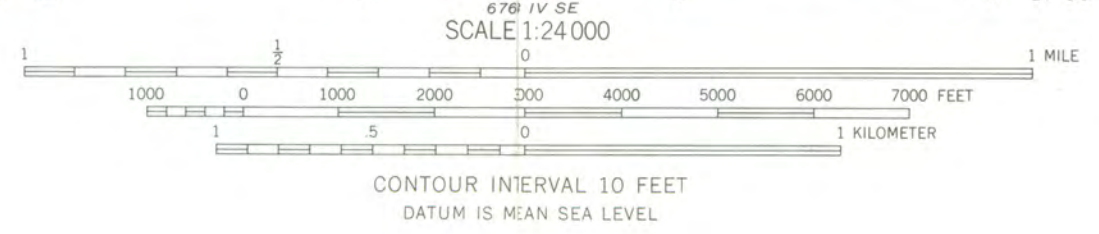
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CONCORD QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—MIDDLESEX CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CONCORD, MASS.
N4222.5—W7115.7.5

1970

AMS 6768 IV NE—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 11 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
North Easton Railroad Station	North Easton Bristol County
Pilgrim Hall	Plymouth Plymouth County
Rocky Hill Meetinghouse and Parsonage	Amesbury Essex County
French Cable Station	Orleans Barnstable County
Isaac Davis Trail	Acton, Concord Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Hon. Hastings Keith
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

4/5/72

HR
NRowland:mm