

FEB 4 1991

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Newington Center Historic District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Merrimac Drive

n/a  not for publication

city, town Newington

n/a  vicinity

state New Hampshire

code NH

county Rockingham

code 015

zip code 03801

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 22

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Melicy C. Miller  
Signature of certifying official

April 25, 1991  
Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

see USAF letter of 11-19-91  
concurrency

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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:)

Beth A. Savage

12-9-91

Beth A. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action



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The forest is bisected by two roads. New Road, now a pine-needle covered dirt road, was laid out in an east-west direction from just north of the Parsonage (see building #7 - original 1987 nomination) in 1896. Merrimac Drive, a paved, two lane road was laid out by the Air Force soon after it acquired the property and extends from the union of Nimble Hill Road and Short Street in a northeast arc across the forest parcel. Seasonally wet areas, associated with the intermittent Pickering Brook, are located throughout the forest land. Land elevations range from roughly 70 feet to a height of 99 feet within the forest. With the exception of the Stone School, included as building #8 in the 1987 nomination, and the stone walls which bound the forest, there are no manmade structures within the forest bounds.

In terms of tree species, the town forest is dominated by the white pine. Lesser amounts of hemlock, also coniferous, are found especially in wet areas. Indigenous hardwood species most commonly found in the forest are white ash, hornbeam, black birch, American beech, red oak and shagbark hickory. The forest and base are also notable for containing some of the best white oak in the seacoast region. Most of the region's white oak stands were decimated in World War I and used as planking for ships. In various areas in the forest, new growth of hardwood such as sweet birch, beech and white oak are interspersed in the understory of the white pine and are generally allowed by foresters to remain until they threaten the pine from a forest management standpoint. For although these hardwoods may be hospitable to various types of wildlife, they often prove counter-productive to the establishment of a good pine forest by encouraging tree growth that is less perfect and thus less desirable from an economic view, and may demote a tree's value from saw wood to pulp.

The town forest is intensively managed by the U.S. Air Force under a multiple use concept, the main objectives being timber production, recreation and wildlife management, objectives which are consistent with the original intent of the town forest. A large portion of the land has been managed to improve cutting. Timber sales took place in the town forest in 1983, 1986 and 1990 removed a total of over 200,000 board feet of sawtimber, predominately white pine, as well as 53.5 cords of firewood and 150 tons of softwood pulp. Base foresters have limited the use of heavy machinery and timber landings are reseeded.

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Some additional cutting takes place under the base firewood program whereby base personnel are permitted to conduct limited tree cutting according to forester specifications. Wood roads within the forest have found additional use by snowmobilers and cross country skiers. Overall, the impact of man on the historic integrity of the site is negligible and much wildlife, including deer and turkey continue to inhabit the forest.

As indicated on the attached sketch map, base foresters have divided the town forest parcel into twelve sections or stands, differentiated by tree species, size, stand height and stocking. A brief description of the stands follows.

Stand #1: This area at the northwestern corner of the forest is notable as an area of old growth pine within the forest. It primarily consists of large sawtimber white pine, measuring more than 13 inches in diameter and rising to heights of over 60 feet. The stand measures approximately 2.6 acres and is characterized by medium stocking of 40 to 70%.

Stands #2 & #3: Bisected by Merrimac Drive, these white pine stands in the western part of the forest are primarily smaller sawtimber, 9 to 13 inches in diameter and more than 60 feet tall. Each stand measures about 5.0 acres and is well stocked with more than 70% crown closure. This area is apparently part of the 'Pine Plantation' section planted in 1916. The mortality of the trees was high because they were planted close together.

Stand #4: This stand consists of the north-central portion of the forest, bounded by the base boundary line and Merrimac Drive. Mixed hardwoods dominate, approximately 40-60 feet tall and 9-13 inches in diameter. The 4.2 acre area is well stocked with a crown closure of more than 70%.

Stand #5: This narrow 2 acre stand at the northern edge of the forest, east of Merrimac Drive, is comprised of mixed hardwood and softwood. The tree diameter at 5-9 inches is smaller than that found in most of the forest. The stand height is 40-60 feet tall and of medium stocking (40-70%).

Stand #6: This is a 5.6 acre stand, bounded on the northeast by Merrimac Drive and southwest by New Road. The stand is a mixture of white pine and mixed hardwoods of large sawtimber size, greater than 13 inches in diameter. The stand rises more than 60 feet tall and is medium stocked.

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Stand #7: This wet area to the north of New Road proves a natural habitat for hemlock as well as white pines. The 5.3 acre area is well covered and consists of large sawtimber/poles at heights in excess of 60 feet.

Stand #8: The largest of the stands in the forest, this 16.9 acre area is bounded by Merrimac Drive and New Road to the north and the base boundary to the south. It consists primarily of white pines, large sawtimber/poles, rising to heights over 60 feet with medium coverage.

Stand #9: Containing the highest land elevation in the forest (99 feet), this small, 1.6 acre young white pine stand is located on the south side of New Road and consists of seedlings and saplings ranging from 20 to 40 feet tall, with medium coverage. Also notable are the few American chestnut trees located in this stand. The American chestnut tree has been largely extinct since 1904 when blight wiped out most of the species. These chestnuts, as is common, unfortunately bear sterile fruit.

Stand #10: This is a 3.6 acre stand of uneven age, consisting of hardwood, oak, beech and birch with an understory of pine. The tree size is primarily that of small sawtimber, 9 to 13 inches in diameter. The medium stocked stand displays a variety of tree heights.

Stand #11: Located at the southeast corner of the forest parcel, this 1.3 acre stand displays white pine and mixed hardwood in excess of 60 feet tall and 9 to 13 inches in diameter. Stocking is good, at more than 70%.

Stand #12: This is a large 11.9 acre white pine and mixed hardwood stand located in the northeast part of the forest, consisting of large sawtimber/poles in excess of 60 feet tall and good stocking, in excess of 70%.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance  
1710-1941

Significant Dates

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Cultural Affiliation  
n/a

Significant Person  
n/a

Architect/Builder n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The 69 acre Newington Town Forest parcel which is the subject of this boundary increase is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A (for settlement) because it represents the balance of the surviving common land already included as contributing to the Newington Center Historic District listed on the Register in 1987. It possesses a high level of integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling and association. The town forest property is significant, not only as common land set aside beginning in 1640 but also as open space retaining the Center's landscape and setting which are integral to the district. Although town ownership of the land was interrupted by the acquisition of the land for Pease Air Force Base in 1952, the historic use of the land as forest has continued to the present. In fact, the forest has continued to be held in public ownership for public benefit and under the stewardship of the base foresters its historic integrity has been carefully maintained and enhanced.

Newington's Town Forest has been referred to as the first town forest in the country although published reference to this or other early forests has found to be lacking. As has been discussed in the 1987 nomination, in 1640 much of the land which was to become a community forest was reserved as common ground or unallotted lands for the settlers on Bloody Point, then a section of Dover. Part of the land was cleared for pasture and part was held as timberland to be used for building and for fuel. At a public town meeting at the meetinghouse on Dover Neck May 22, 1710 approximately 50-60 acres was formally set aside with the intent of preserving some of the town's valuable natural resources from development and overuse. This action is generally considered to be the beginning of the Newington Town Forest. (1)

See continuation sheet

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Historically the town forest can be divided into three sections, known as the Church Lot, the Parsonage Lot and the Downing Lot. The Church Lot, lying west of what is now Nimble Hill Road, originally contained 42 acres. Most of this area is contained in the 1987 Newington Center National Register District; the southern portion of the Church Lot was part of the property acquired by the Air Force in 1952 and subsequently destroyed for a runway.

The 69 acre town forest which is the subject of this amendment includes sections of both the Parsonage and Downing Lots. The Parsonage Lot, consisted of twenty acres of "pitch plains" granted to Richard Pomeroy in 1689. The lot was purchased by the Town of Newington along with the Old Parsonage (building #7, original 1987 nomination) in 1765 for the minister. The town at that time already owned about 20 acres adjacent which was also common land. This area generally corresponds to stands 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9 as delineated on the attached sketch map. During the 19th century, the Town's selectmen managed this woodlot, giving fuel to the town poor, allowing citizens to cut their winter supply of wood and selling the growth on the lot to fund town projects such as construction of a town library, water system and school. Portions of stands 2 & 3 were cut in 1912, the area was reseeded with 8,000 trees in 1915. Portions of stand 8 were cut in 1894 and parts of stands 7 and 9 were cut in 1919. (2)

The Downing Lot generally refers to the thirty acres north of New Road or stands 4, 5, 6, 7 and 12 on the sketch map. The Town apparently held and managed this forest since Revolutionary days. The first record of cuttings in this area appeared in 1874 when the town voted to sell timber rights on twenty four acres to pay off the Civil War debt. In 1919 the growth on the balance of six acres of the lot was sold. In 1922 about 200 cords of wood were sold. The Report of the Forestry Commission in 1924 notes that "at the present time the cut-over lands are coming back to pine with a few blocks of mature pine and hardwoods." (3)

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### FOOTNOTES

1. Mausolf, Lisa. Newington Center Historic District, National Register Nomination. Listed November 30, 1987.
2. "Biennial Report of the N.H. Forestry Commission". Concord: 1924.
3. Ibid.



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

"Biennial Report of the NH Forestry Commission", Concord, NH: 1924.  
Hale, Warren F. "Town Forest", New Hampshire Profiles, January 1953.  
Mausolf, Lisa. Newington Center Historic District, National Register Nomination.  
Listed November 30, 1987.  
Information from Martin Curran, Forester, Pease Air Force Base, October 1990.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 69 acres

UTM References

A	19	351480	4773460
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	19	350900	4772620

B	19	351860	4773040
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	19	350860	4772800

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 1991

street & number 18 Elaine Road telephone (617) 279-0694

city or town Stoneham state MA zip code 02180

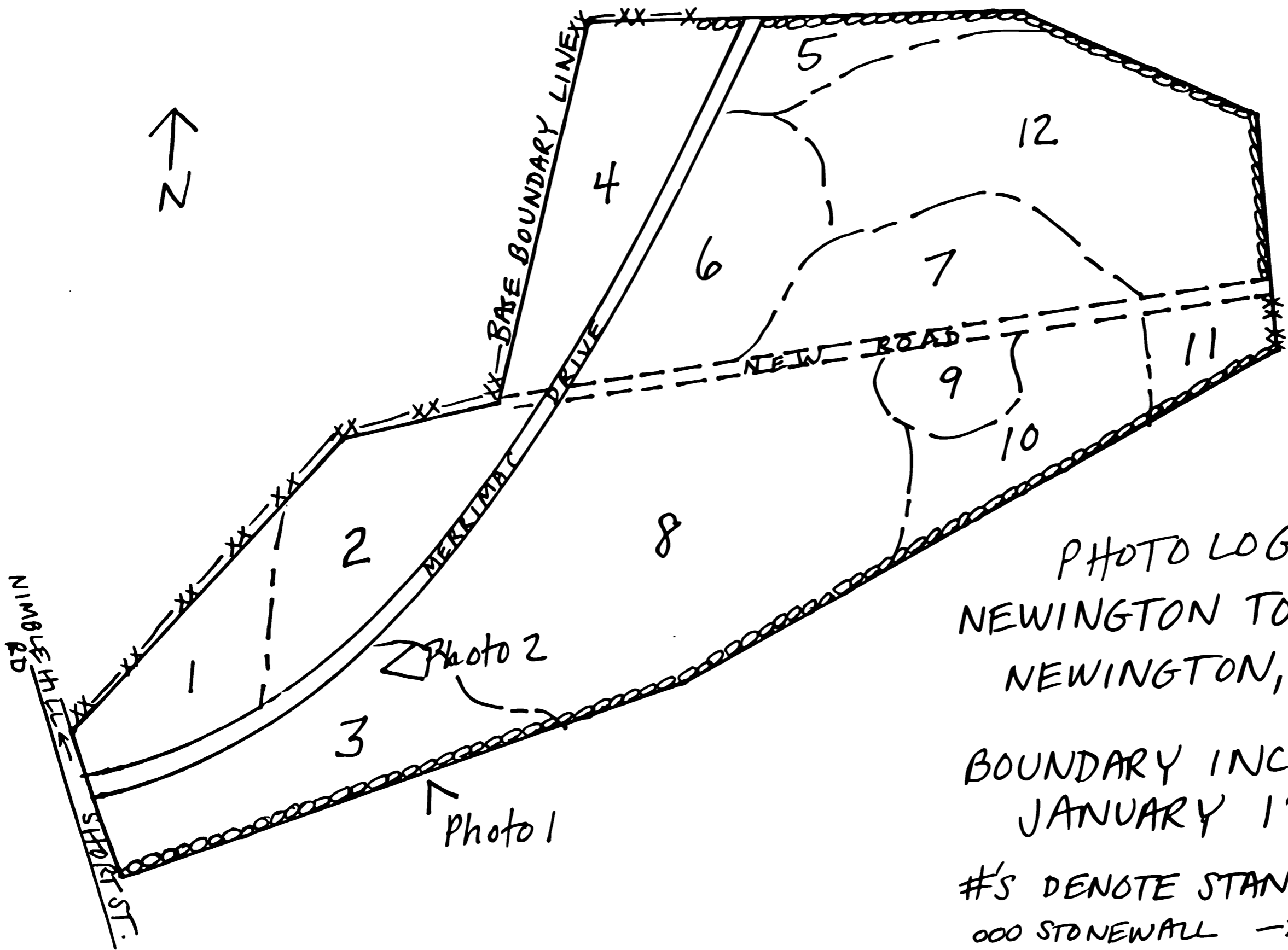


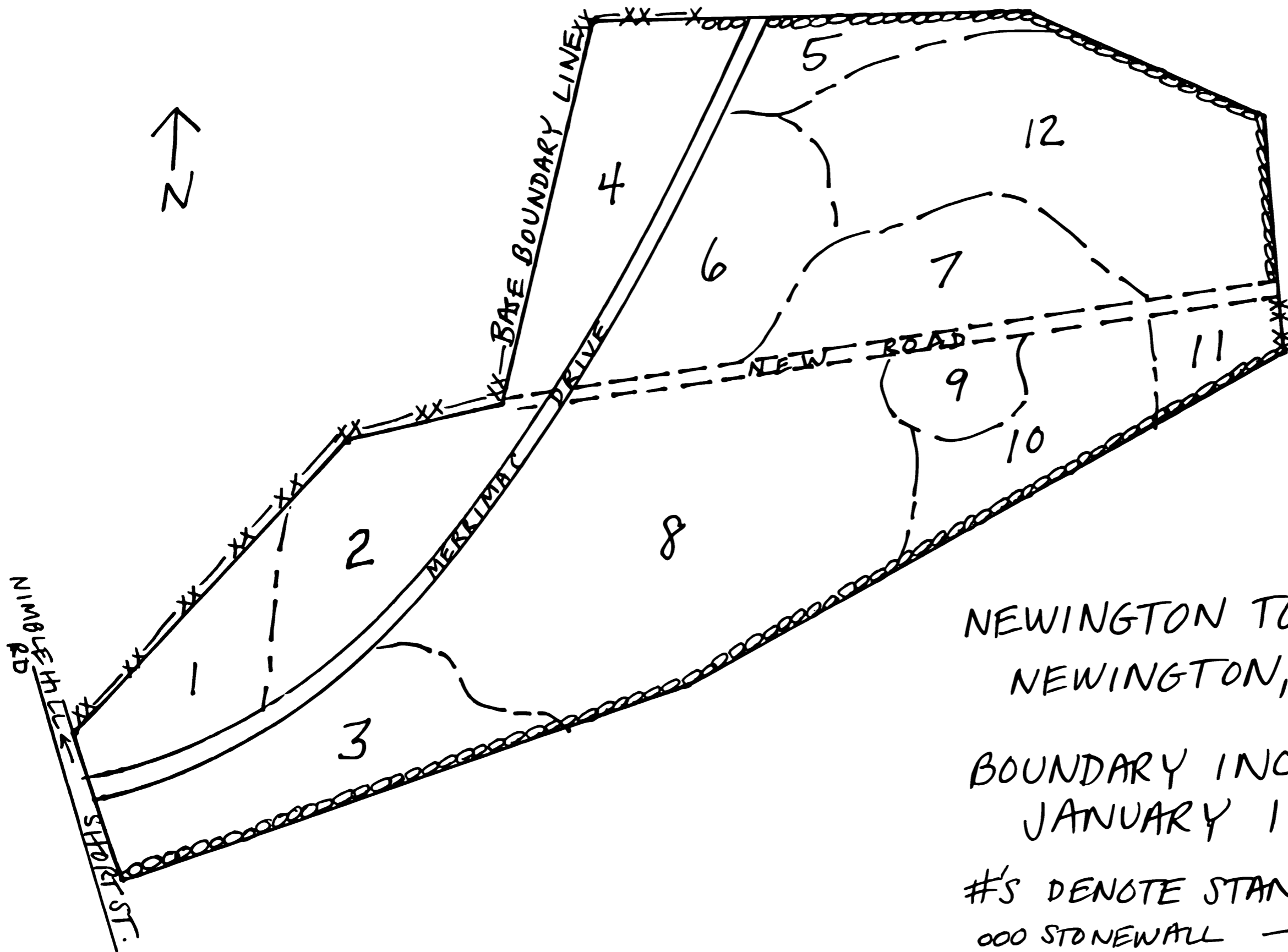
PHOTO LOG  
 NEWINGTON TOWN FOREST  
 NEWINGTON, NH

BOUNDARY INCREASE  
 JANUARY 1991

#'S DENOTE STAND (SEE TEXT)  
 000 STONEWALL -XX-XX BARBED  
 WIRE FENCE

SCALE: 1" = 400'

Source: Dept. of the Air Force,  
 Forest Management Plan  
 Pease Air Force Base



NEWINGTON TOWN FOREST  
NEWINGTON, NH

BOUNDARY INCREASE  
JANUARY 1991

#'S DENOTE STAND (SEE TEXT)

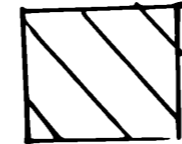
000 STONEWALL -XX-XX BARBED  
WIRE FENCE

Source: Dept. of the Air Force,  
Forest Management Plan  
Pease Air Force Base





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100' 300'

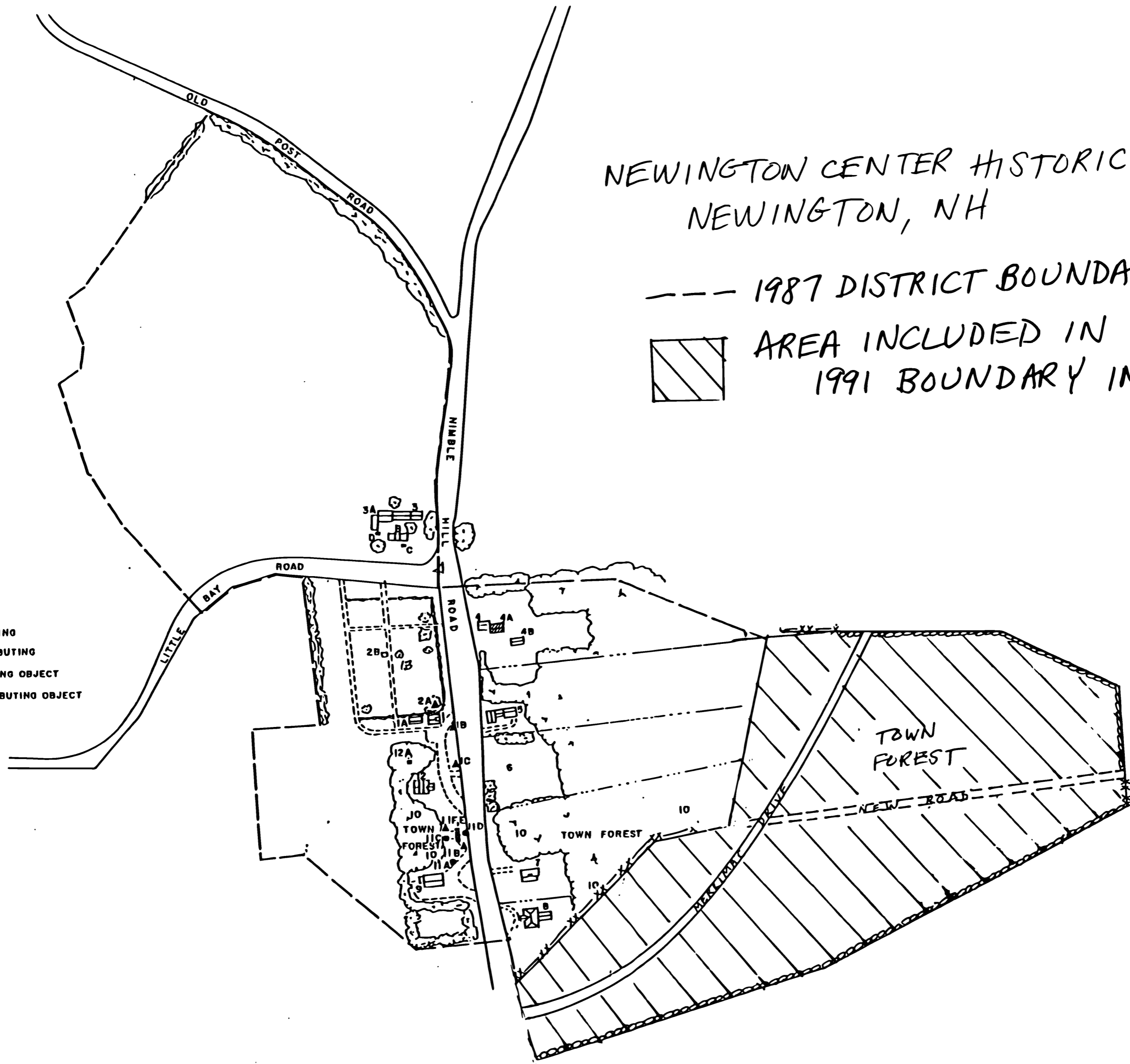
# NEWINGTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWINGTON, NH

--- 1987 DISTRICT BOUNDARY

 AREA INCLUDED IN  
1991 BOUNDARY INCREASE

## KEY:

-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NONCONTRIBUTING
-  CONTRIBUTING OBJECT
-  NONCONTRIBUTING OBJECT



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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated district is increased to include that historic acreage which survives from the Newington Town Forest within the Pease Air Force Base and which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The area south of the 1987 district and to the west of Short Street purposely has been excluded from the district boundary due to the clearing of the former woodland for a runway. The remaining town forest property is bounded on the west by Nimble Hill Road/Short Street, on the north by the Air Force Base boundary which is marked by a barbed wire fence and on the remaining sides by a stone wall. Boundaries are sufficient to convey the original context and to protect it. Boundaries are indicated on the attached sketch map.

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This certifies that the appearance has not changed since these photographs were taken.

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### PHOTO LOG

Photograph 1

Newington Center Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Newington, New Hampshire

Credit: Lisa Mausolf

Date: October 1990

Negative filed at: Newington Historic District Commission

Description: View looking northwest showing stone wall marking southern boundary of Newington Town Forest.

Photograph 2

Newington Center Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Newington, New Hampshire

Credit: Lisa Mausolf

Date: October 1990

Negative filed at: Newington Historic District Commission

Description: View looking southwest showing skid road amidst stand (Stand # 3) of white pine in Newington Town Forest.

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### OWNER OF PROPERTY

Ludlow Clark  
HQ USAF/LEEV  
Bolling Air Force Base  
Washington, D.C. 20332-5000

Gary Vest  
Deputy for Environmental Safety  
ODA SAF, Pentagon, Room 4C916  
Washington, D.C. 20330