

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**
(NATIONAL HISTORIC
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Middlesex
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Walden Pond and/or Walden Pond State Reservation

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Walden Pond

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Massachusetts Route 126 (Walden Street and Concord Road)

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord and Lincoln

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston 02133

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Southern District

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge 02141

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.

COUNTY: Middlesex

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Walden Pond, located south of Massachusetts Route 2 and west of Massachusetts Route 126, is the focus of Walden Pond State Reservation in Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts. The Reservation contained 144 acres when it was established in 1922 but has since been expanded to some 250 acres. Of that area, the Pond itself covers 64.5 acres. The land area of the Reservation, which completely surrounds the Pond, is primarily wooded.

The Thoreau cabin site, which was identified by an archaeological investigation in 1945, is located in a clearing above Deep Cove on the northern shore of the Pond (photos 1-3). Rough-cut granite posts outline the one-room cabin and the adjacent woodshed. Near them is a cairn, to which visitors are allowed to add stones. A pathway leads from the cabin site to an unpaved parking lot located above the northeastern shore of the Pond off Route 126. An unpaved fire road running west from Route 126 also gives access to the site.

Facilities for serving visitors are concentrated at the eastern end of Walden Pond. A large unpaved parking area overlooks the Pond on the west side of Route 126. A series of concrete ramps and stairs lead down from it to three buildings on the shore. The center building, a 2-story concrete structure with hipped roof capped by a wooden cupola, houses a first aid station and offices for Reservation police and maintenance crews. Flanking 1-story buildings of concrete with flat roofs are men's and women's bath houses. A concrete pier projects into the Pond from the narrow beach in front of these buildings (swimming is restricted to the immediate area). The beach connects at either end with a hiking trail which circles the shoreline of the Pond. Though the buildings described above are in need of repair, the cabin site is regularly maintained and appears to be in good condition.

Boundaries of the National Historic Landmark: the Landmark designation for Walden Pond includes two adjacent parcels of property. Boundaries for the first parcel are described as follows: beginning at the intersection of the southern curbline of Massachusetts Route 2 and the eastern line of the right-of-way of the Boston and Maine Railroad, Fitchburg Division; thence, southeasterly along said eastern line to its intersection with the western curbline of Massachusetts Route 126 (identified as Concord Road in the Town of Lincoln, Walden Street in the Town of Concord); thence, northeasterly and then northwesterly along said western curbline to its intersection with the southern curbline of Massachusetts Route 2; thence, westerly along said southern curbline to the point of beginning. Boundaries for the second parcel, located on the eastern side of Massachusetts Route 126, are those as identified on the U.S.G.S. map, 7.5 minute series, Concord Quadrangle (1970).

Note: residential buildings on the western side of Massachusetts Route 126 southeast of Emerson's Cliff are included in the boundaries for the first parcel for convenience in definition but do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark property.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845-1847

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A cairn of rocks and a series of granite posts marks the site above the wooded shoreline of Deep Cove at Walden Pond where Henry David Thoreau built a 1-room cabin and, from July 4, 1845, until September 6, 1847, carried out an experiment in simple living and philosophic meditation. That period saw the completion of his first major work, A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, and provided the basic material for his second, Walden, or Life in the Woods. As a poet, philosopher, and nature writer, Thoreau was greatly influenced by the Transcendentalists, among them Orestes Bronson, Emerson, the Channings, Bronson Alcott, and Henry James, Sr. Considered eccentric in his own time, he has today achieved a high place among American literary figures.

Walden Pond is now the center of Walden Pond State Reservation, a public conservation and recreation area established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1922. At that time, Thoreau's cabin site, which had been the property of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Pond, and the surrounding land were deeded to the Commonwealth by Emerson's heirs under restrictions intended to preserve their historic character. Those restrictions remain the core of the regulations governing use of the Reservation. The area is open to the public daily from sunrise until dark.

Biographical Summary

Henry David Thoreau was born on July 12, 1817, in Concord, Massachusetts, where his father, John Thoreau, operated a small graphite pencil factory. Thoreau attended the Concord Academy and, at great sacrifice to his family, entered Harvard College in 1833. There he encountered both the intellectual heritage of the 18th century, which he soon abandoned, and the new thought that was to provide the philosophical basis for his later experiment in living at Walden. Jones Very, a minor Transcendentalist poet, was his tutor in Greek; Orestes Bronson, soon to become a Transcendentalist publicist, helped him with German during a schoolteaching vacation; Edward T. Channing, professor of rhetoric, assigned compositions in which Thoreau sketched his concept of the superior man and recorded the increasing Transcendental tendency of his thought. A good student but indifferent to the rank system and preferring to use the library for his own purposes, Thoreau graduated in the middle of the class of 1837.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foerster, Norman. Nature in American Literature (1923).
 Harding, Walter. A Thoreau Handbook (1959)
 Malone, Dumas, ed., Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVIII (1936).
 Matthiessen, F. O. American Renaissance (1941).
 Salt, Henry S. Life of Henry David Thoreau (1896).
 Thoreau, Henry David. A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers (1849).
 _____ . Walden, or Life in the Woods (1854).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	U.T.M.			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	19	308300	4701450	0		
SE	19	308250	4700750			
SW	19	307780	4699780			
NW	19	306630	4701650			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c.250

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: Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by J. Walter Coleman, Historian, 8/10/61

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, NPS DATE: 1/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington 20240 STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 011

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 N/A
National Historic Landmark

Title _____

Date _____

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Landmark Designated: 10/29/62
 date

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Commission
 Date _____ date

ATTEST: Chief, Pict. & Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed: 9/25/65

Keper of the National Register date

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

(8) Statement of Significance Page 2

Though four years of college had prepared Thoreau for no practical career, he found a vocation through Ralph Waldo Emerson's Phi Beta Kappa address, "The American Scholar", delivered during his commencement week. In that address, Emerson urged the younger generation to follow his own calling, that of the independent intellectual at the service of the Republic, and to fulfill in action the program for nurturing American genius and culture that he had already outlined in Nature (1836). To discover the identities between man and nature, to translate the external world into consciousness, to humanize science by making fact flower into truth, was now the work of the scholar. At Emerson's suggestion, Thoreau began to keep a journal on his return to Concord; eventually running to 39 manuscript volumes, it became the principal record of his arduous experience of assimilating nature to himself.

Thoreau taught briefly in the Concord town school in 1837 and then, with his brother John, operated a private school (1838-41). In 1838, he began his long service as lecturer and curator for the Concord Lyceum. During September 1839, the Thoreau brothers made a 13-day boat trip down the Concord River and up the Merrimack as far as Concord, New Hampshire.

Between 1841 and 1843, Thoreau lived in the Emerson home, where he began meeting with the group now known as the Transcendental Club and became acquainted with Bronson Alcott, James Freeman Clarke, George Ripley, Margaret Fuller, and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. In the Emerson household, he turned his hand to everything from gardening and fence-mending to writing essays and poems and, during Emerson's absence, edited the April 1843 number of the Transcendentalists' Dial. In May 1843, Thoreau became tutor in the home of his Concord patron's brother, William Emerson, on Staten Island. During his year in New York, he made his acquaintance with the sea and with William Henry Channing, Lucretia Mott, Henry James, Sr., and Horace Greeley, and sought out publishers in a generally unsuccessful attempt to sell articles to the magazines. Then, confirmed in his distaste for city life, disappointed by his failure as an author, and in debt, he returned home and with Yankee brevity recorded in his journal "Made pencils in 1844".

As early as December 24, 1841, Thoreau had expressed in his journal a desire to "go soon and live away by the pond." In 1845, Emerson provided the land Thoreau needed for his Walden experiment, though he did not approve of what he considered a withdrawal into solitude and an abdication of the "Napoleonic" leadership he expected of his protégé. For Thoreau, however, going to Walden Pond was an act of independence, the act of precipitating his fate (in Walden he began his account of his life there on Independence Day). He hoped not only to solve by simplicity and subsistence farming his economic problems as a writer, but by means of his intimacy with nature to meet "the great facts of his existence" and to live an uncommitted life open to spirit.

On July 4, 1845, Thoreau took up his residence in the 1-room cabin which he had built at the Pond that spring. Over the next two years, he worked on his

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) (8) Statement of Significance Page 3

first book, wrote in his journal, tended his garden, took walks for spiritual as well as physical exercise, and lived with nature. During the summer of 1845, he was arrested for nonpayment of his poll tax, his form of protest against slavery as it became an issue in the Mexican War. He spent only one night in jail, after which, much to his disgust, the tax was paid by his aunt. The incident was the source of Thoreau's most famous essay "Civil Disobedience," a defense of the private conscience against majority expediency, first published in 1849.

Thoreau left Walden on September 6, 1847, to manage the Emerson household during Emerson's absence on a lecture tour in Europe. He brought with him the draft of his first book, A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, and the journals on which his second, Walden, or Life in the Woods, would be based. The two, his greatest books and the only ones published during his lifetime, are companion volumes, the first covering Thoreau's spiritual history from 1839 to 1849, the second the years from 1845 to 1854. A Week is a series of comments on life and literature drawn from Thoreau's journals and incorporated in the framework of a narrative of the boat trip made with his brother in 1839. In this volume, Thoreau was "a long-lived child/As yet uninjured by all worldly taint," his life "constantly as fresh as this river." In Walden he had become the "mature soul of lesser innocence" who, "from sad experience of his fate," had consciously achieved "the ripe bloom of a self-wrought content." Completely revised six times before its publication, the book was not a literal record of Thoreau's Walden experiment but rather a fable of spiritual renewal presented in the narrative of a single cycle of seasons from summer through spring.

After trying unsuccessfully to find a publisher for A Week, Thoreau issued the book in 1849 at his own expense. It was so poorly received--only 200 of the 1,000 copies were sold--that he did not release Walden until 1854, when the debt he had incurred in publishing A Week had been repaid. In the years between the appearance of the two books, Thoreau's friendships multiplied. The poet Ellery Channing replaced Emerson in the center of his acquaintance and, in 1849, he came to know Harrison G. O. Blake of Worcester, Massachusetts, with whom he maintained a long correspondence and to whom his sister bequeathed his manuscripts and journals. Thoreau toured Cape Cod on foot in 1849, spent a week in Canada in 1850, and went to Maine in 1853. Four of his posthumous books derive in part at least from these expeditions: Excursions (1863), The Maine Woods (1864), Cape Cod (1865), and A Yankee in Canada (1866).

The two years spent at the Pond and the subsequent years of work on Walden were the great period of Thoreau's life; the years after 1854 were anti-climactic. Having "not made it worth any one's while" to buy his delicately woven wares, as he explained in Walden, Thoreau tried to "avoid the necessity of selling them," and no longer attempted to maintain himself by writing. Instead, he returned to his father's pencil factory and to surveying, his occupations for the rest of his life. He became the scientific observer

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**(NATIONAL HISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
LANDMARKS)**

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries) (8) Statement of Significance Page 4

rather than the nature poet, working steadily on his Concord herbarium, his weather records, and his ethnological study of the Indian. He continued as a lyceum lecturer, with indifferent success outside of Concord, and traveled again to Cape Cod in 1855 and Maine in 1857.

Thoreau had exhibited symptoms of tuberculosis as early as 1852. In December, 1860, he caught a cold which led to a bronchial infection, aggravated by his insistence on keeping a lecture engagement. After that, the tuberculosis made rapid progress. In the spring of 1861, Thoreau traveled to Minnesota in hopes of improving his health but with no success. After a brief visit to New Bedford, Massachusetts, in August 1861, he retired to his room, where he spent the remaining months of his life feverishly editing manuscripts which he left for his sister Sophia to publish. He died on the morning of May 6, 1862.

The Walden cabin site remained in the Emerson family until 1922 when it was transferred to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the establishment of the Walden Pond State Reservation. In donating the property, Emerson's heirs placed specific restrictions on its maintenance and use aimed at "preserving the Walden of Emerson and Thoreau, its shores and nearby woodlands for the public who wish to enjoy the pond, the woods and nature." Since 1922, the Reservation has been expanded from its original 144 acres to approximately 250 acres. The entire area is open to the public daily from sunrise until dark.

WALDEN WOODS MAPS

1. Surficial Geology

Based on the Carl Kotef 1964 Surficial Geology of the Concord Quadrangle.

2. Open Space and Conservation Land

Open Space Plan, Lincoln 1989

Open Space Map, Concord, 1975, 1987

(Includes public land such as the Concord/Carlisle High School and the Concord landfill).

3. 1895 Parcels

Based on the Albert E. Wood 1895 Plan of Walden Woods.

4. Woodland in the 1980's

Based on the UGS, 1987 series maps.

5. Walden Woods - Groundwater Flow

Based on the Concord and Lincoln groundwater flow maps.

MAPS STILL BEING DEVELOPED

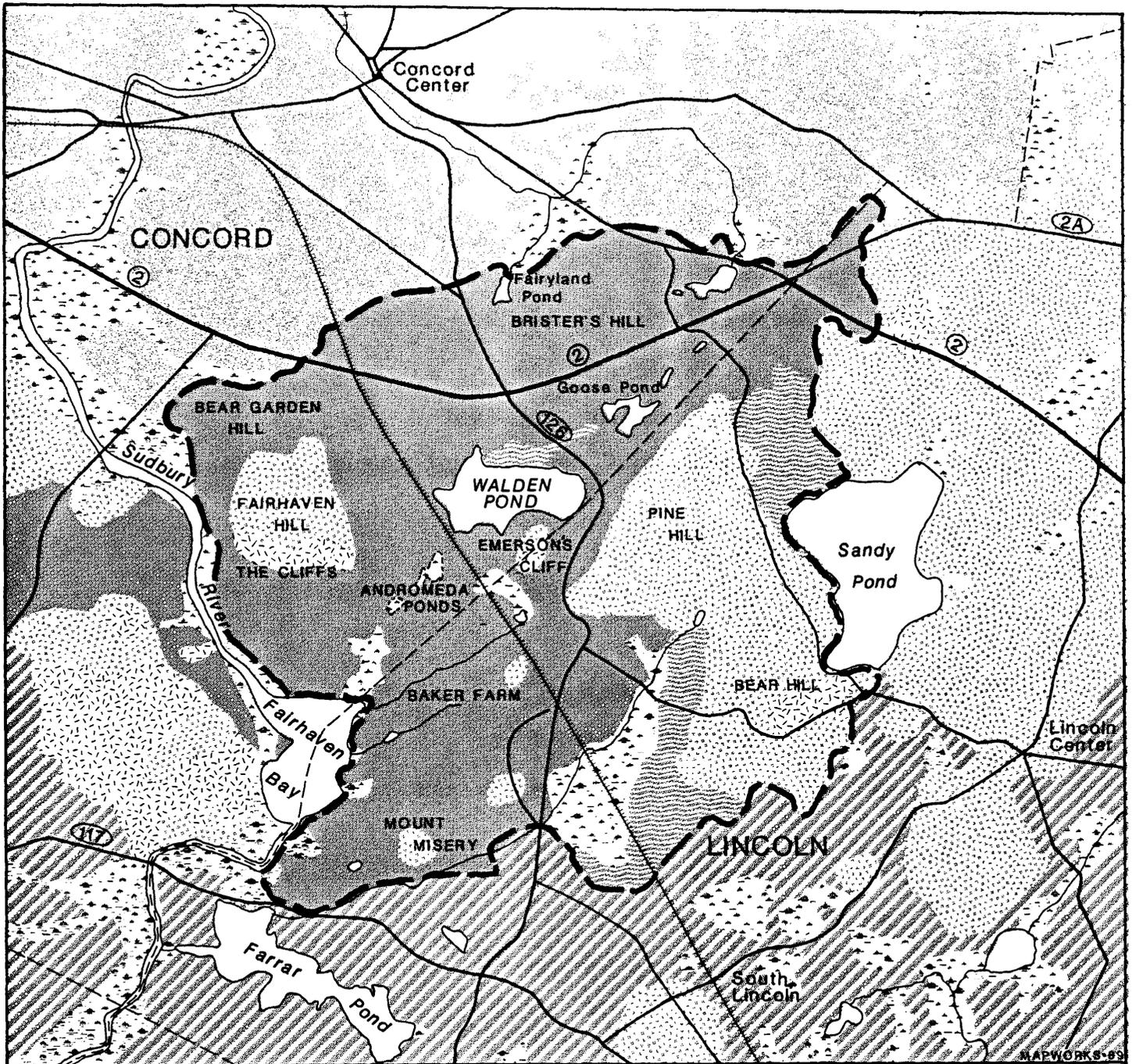
6. Aerial Photos

An overlay of the boundaries of Walden Woods on various aerial photos.

7. 1989 Parcels

An overlay of the boundaries of Walden Woods on the most recent Assessor's Tax maps of Concord and Lincoln.

8. Historical and Literary Map



WALDEN WOODS

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY



— HISTORIC
WALDEN WOODS

-  Recent Wetland Deposits
-  Bedrock Exposures
- Wisconsin Glacial Deposits**
-  Glacial Lake Concord
-  Glacial Lake Sudbury
-  Newer Deposits
-  Older Deposits
-  Melt-water Deposits
-  Till

Sources: Albert E. Wood 1895, Plan of Walden Woods.
Carl Koteff 1964, Surficial Geology of the Concord Quadrangle.



MAPWORKS-89

WALDEN WOODS

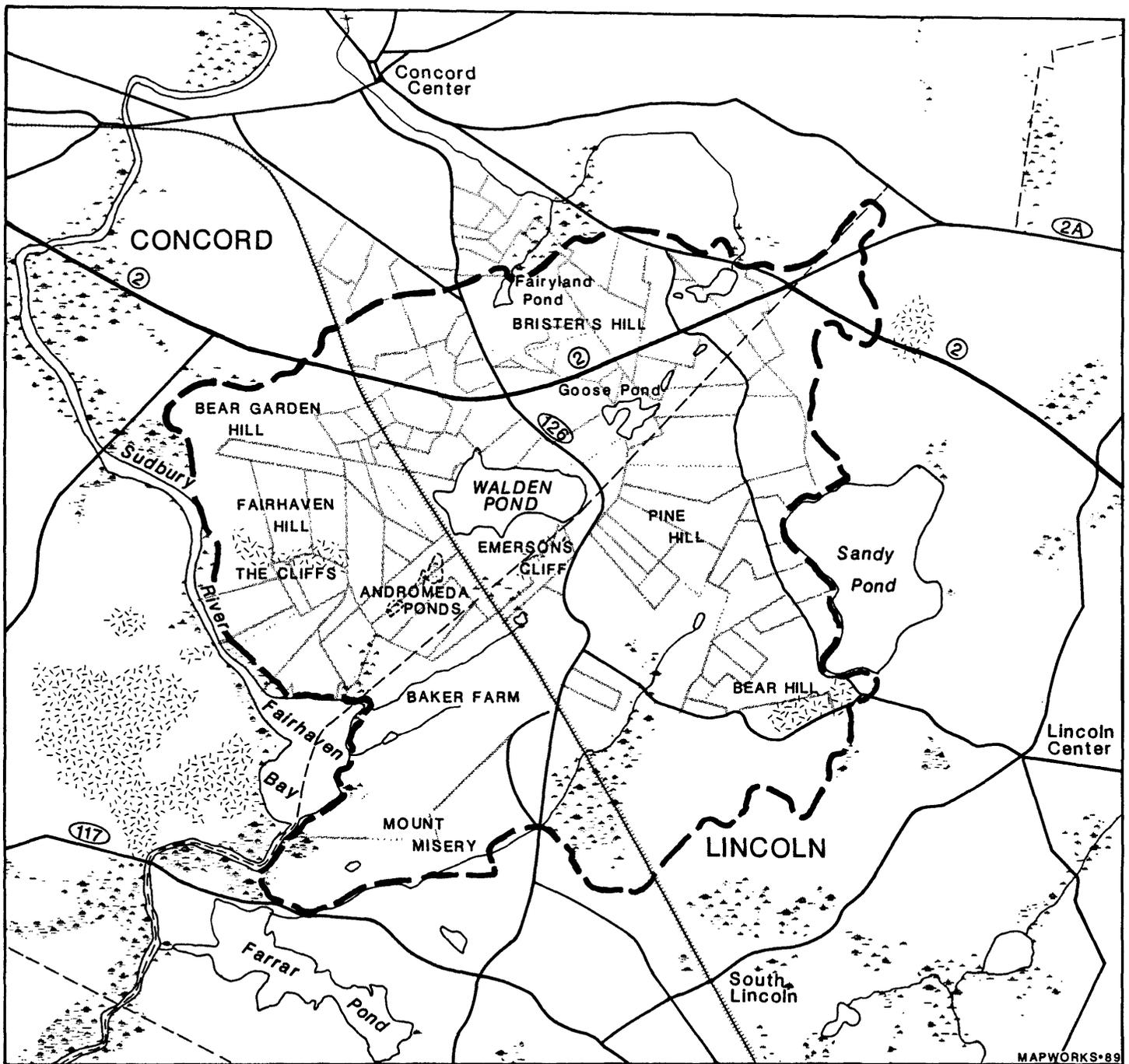
OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION LAND



— — — — — HISTORIC
WALDEN WOODS

-  Public Conservation Land
-  Private Conservation Land
-  Public & Institutional Land
-  Wetlands
-  Bedrock Exposures

Sources: Open Space Plan - Lincoln, Massachusetts, 1989
Open Space Map - Concord, Massachusetts, 1975, 1987



MAPWORKS*89

WALDEN WOODS

1895 PARCELS



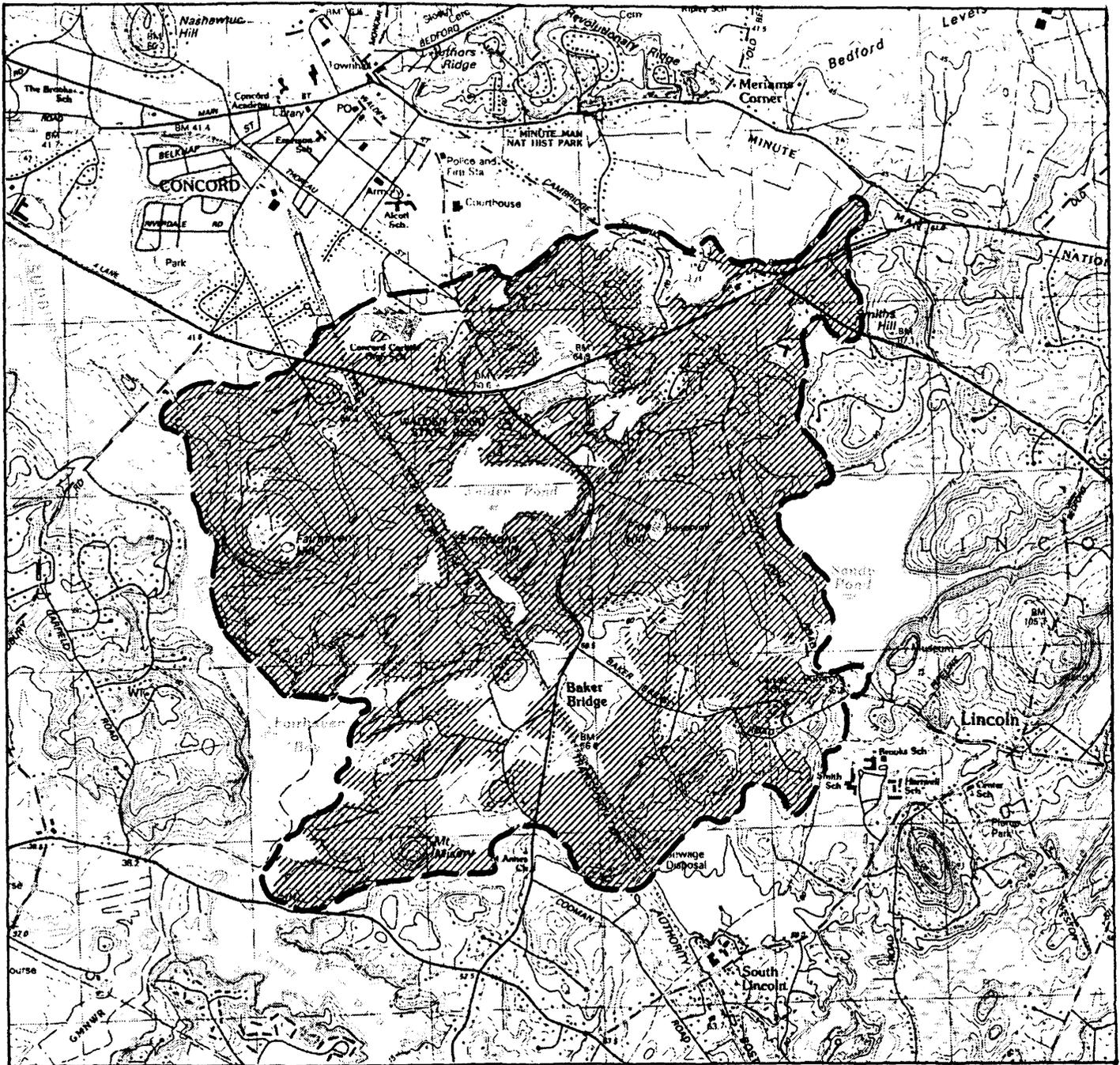
— — — — — HISTORIC WALDEN WOODS

— — — — — 1895 Parcel Boundaries based on Wood's 1895 Plan of Walden Woods

 Wetlands

 Bedrock Exposures

Source: Albert E. Wood 1895, Plan of Walden Woods



WALDEN WOODS

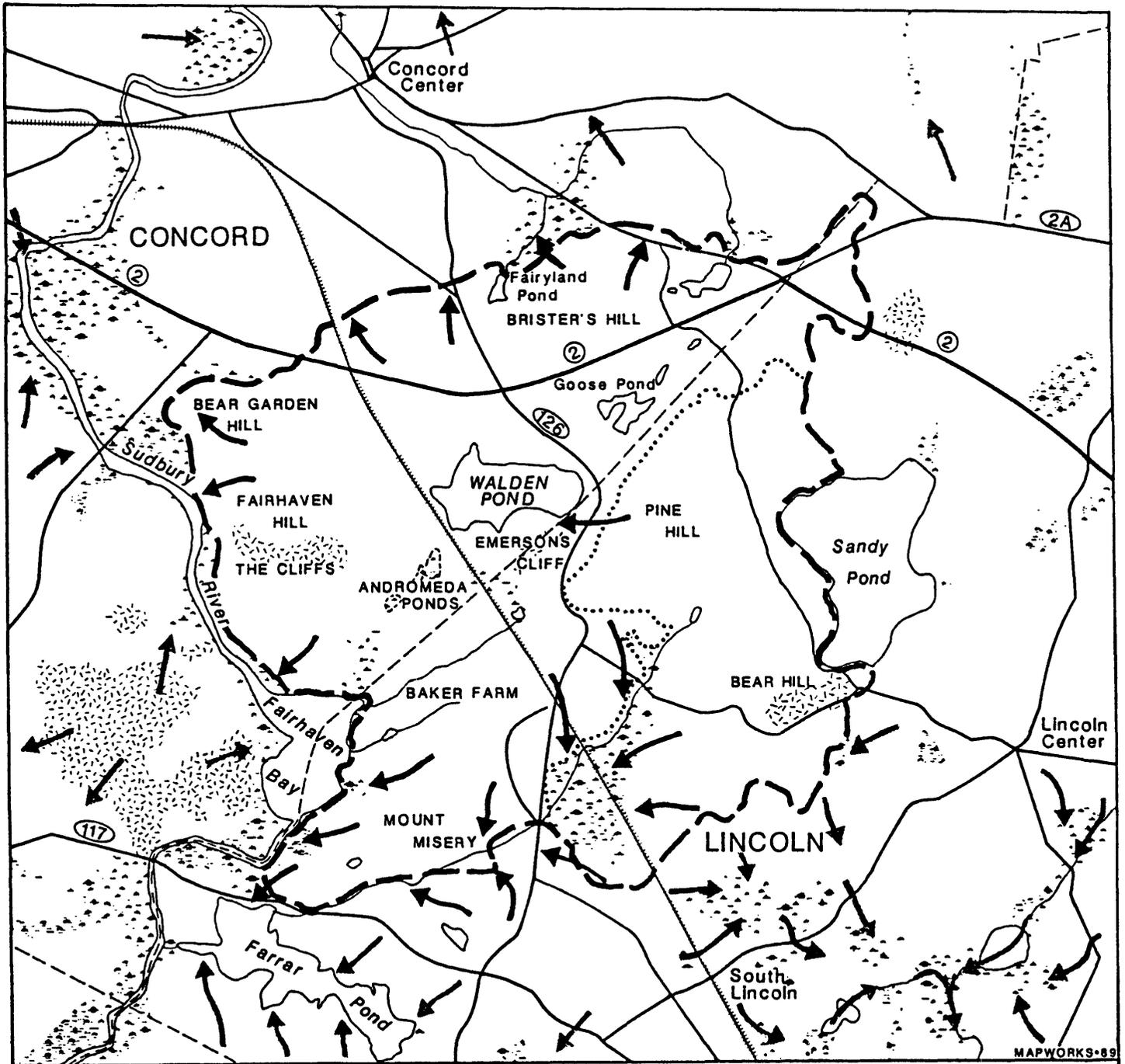
WOODLAND IN THE 1980's



— HISTORIC WALDEN WOODS

▨ Wooded Area

Source: U.S.G.S. Maynard Massachusetts,
1:25,000 7.5 x 15 Minute Quadrangle, 1987.



MAPWORKS-89

WALDEN WOODS

GROUNDWATER FLOW



— — — — — HISTORIC
WALDEN WOODS

→ → → Direction of Groundwater Flow

..... Boundary between Walden Pond & Sandy Pond Units

Wetlands

Bedrock Exposures

Sources: Albert E. Wood 1895, Plan of Walden Woods
Towns of Concord & Lincoln Groundwater Flow Maps