

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received FEB 8 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm (preferred)

and/or common Wright-Locke-Hamilton Farm

2. Location

street & number 78 Ridge Street N/A not for publication

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name R. Curtis and Bertha Hamilton

street & number 78 Ridge Street

city, town Winchester N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #3 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date February 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

## 7. Description

Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester, Massachusetts

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm is a twenty acre parcel of land comprising cultivated fields, woodland, and early 19th century farmhouse, six outbuildings and a 1960s house situated at the northwest edge of the Town of Winchester. Abutting the lot on the west is a 150 acre tract of conservation land owned by the Town of Lexington, 30 acres of which belonged to this farm until 1969. To the south lies a modest mid-20th century housing development; Ridge Street forms the eastern boundary and semi-developed residential lots the northern.

The main farmhouse was built in 1828 by Asa Locke, after whom it is named. Its conservative Federal Period design is typical of farmhouses found throughout New England in the early 19th century. The building underwent some sensitively rendered Colonial Revival modifications ca. 1910 which are described further in this section. The house stands 2½ stories high and is surmounted by a medium-pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Two interior chimneys rise from the roof ridge. The three pedimented dormers, as well as the deep eave returns date from the ca. 1910 remodeling. Exterior walls are clad in five-inch wide butt end clapboards. Fenestration is regular and consists of six over six sash framed with simple molded surrounds.

The five bay facade (southeast elevation) is distinguished by a central entrance consisting of a six-panel door flanked by 3/4 sidelights and surmounted by an elliptical leaded fanlight. A Colonial Revival portico supported by flared, square posts is a ca. 1910 addition. The east and west elevations were originally identical. During much of the 19th century, however, two-story ells projected from each. Both were removed ca. 1910. At that time, a one-story porch with a shed roof and flared square posts was built onto the east elevation. Projecting from the west elevation is an early 20th century shallow two-story rectangular bay window. The north elevation (rear) has a two-story pitched roof ell with deep eave returns added between 1900 and 1929. A pedimented portico, a smaller version of the one at the facade entrance, extends from the gable end. Fenestration is six over six. A later triple window on the first floor follows the proportions and sash of the original.

The interior of the house is designed around a central hall plan. Rooms are finished with Federalist, Greek Revival and later Colonial Revival trim. Most of the doors, sash and second floor mantels are original, though interior window shutters have been removed. The southeast room on the first floor (parlor) is handsomely finished with wainscotting and a black marble Greek Revival mantel. Remaining first floor rooms have elaborate oak Colonial Revival mantels installed during the ca. 1910 remodeling.

In the cellar, each chimney terminates in two high arches. The unusual height of the cellar, almost nine feet, points to its probable use as storage for produce. Evidence remains in the southwest corner of the foundation of an earlier structure measuring approximately 16x24', which was built by the Wright family in the 18th century.

To the west of the farmhouse stands a frame barn erected in 1827 (#2). The 70x40x30' structure is sheathed in clapboards. Ramps lead to vertically-planked double doors located in each gable end. Small six over six windows provide light. A hip roof cupola with louvered windows and an equestrian weather vane caps the

(Continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Wright-Locke Farm

Continuation sheet Winchester, Massachusetts Item number 7

Page 1

asphalt roof. The interior has stalls for six horses and two cows. Much of the framing is hand-hewn.

Tucked against the north side of the barn is a 17x19x15' clapboard ice house constructed ca. 1900 (#3). Its double walls are insulated with sawdust. A small door and louvered window pierce each gable end.

Continuing in a westerly direction is the second barn, a frame structure sheathed in clapboards (#4). Constructed ca. 1915, the barn was designed for long term storage of produce. Access to the 70x27x30' building is gained through one of three sliding doors on the south elevation. Above the doors and remaining elevations, the exterior walls are pierced with numerous six over six windows. Interior walls are finished with horizontal boarding. The entire second floor is outfitted with tiers of full-height shelves used to store the blue hubbard squash grown on the farm. The central heating system, original to the building, is still intact.

The farm had its own irrigation system that served the buildings and crops. Water was pumped from the well (located near the wagon shed, #5) to a reservoir on top of the hill. From there, it flowed through underground pipes into the buildings and fields. A pitched roof covers the reservoir (#8), and the pipes are still intact.

Other buildings on the property include a late 19th century wagon shed (#5), a small frame early 20th-century garage (#6), a shed (#7) and a 1½ story frame house of traditional design built in 1967 (A). A few yards north of the northern property boundary lies the Locke family tomb, a granite structure built into the hillside and now surrounded by woods.

# 8. Significance

Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester, Massachusetts

E.C.H. 8-29-83

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1827-1915 Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The property is historically significant for its associations with two prominent Woburn (later Winchester) families, each of whom occupied the property for over 170 years. The buildings are significant architecturally as the sole surviving complex of farm buildings in Winchester and as one of the few intact early 19th-century farms in the Boston area. The Wright-Locke Farm thus meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The farm was first owned by the Wright family, who were among the first settlers of Woburn.<sup>1</sup> The original southern boundary of the farm (just a few yards south of the present lot line) coincided with the "Charlestown Head-line" which, in 1635, marked the terminus of the eight mile boundary line from the Charlestown meetinghouse. Some time in the 18th century a small house was erected on the site of the present farmhouse, a small portion of which is still visible in the cellar. The prominence of the Wright family was reflected in the naming of the surrounding area "Wright's Corner."

The last member of the Wright family to own the 45-acre farm and dwelling was Philemon Wright (1760-1839), a veteran of the Revolutionary War. In 1800 he sold the farm. With a party of sixty-three people, Wright traveled by sleigh to Canada where he established the first white settlement in the National Capital Region. Over the next thirty-five years, Wright established farms; built and operated shops, small mills and factories which supplied bricks, cement, iron and leather goods and ground grains; supervised the layout and construction of roads, bridges and a canal; and opened up one of the region's major rivers to commerce and steamship travel. By 1814 his own Canadian farm contained over 800 acres of cleared land. In 1980 the Canadian government erected the largest free-standing bronze plaque in North America on the Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm to commemorate Wright's important contribution to the development of Canada.

Josiah Locke, Sr., the purchaser of Wright's Winchester farm and dwelling in 1800, was also descended from an early Woburn family. In 1804 he deeded the property to his son Asa (1781-1857), who became one of Woburn's most prosperous farmers and orchardists.<sup>2</sup> Over the next decades, Asa increased the farm's acreage to 182 and developed extensive market gardens on the land. In 1828 he erected the present farmhouse on the site of the earlier Wright house.<sup>3</sup>

(Continued)

<sup>1</sup> The Town of Winchester was not formed until 1850. From 1640-42 this section of town was part of Charlestown Village, renamed "Woburne" in 1642. It remained part of Woburn until 1850.

<sup>2</sup> Woburn Journal, April 21, 1911.

<sup>3</sup> Asa's brother Josiah owned an adjacent farm. The house, known as the Josiah Locke House, is still standing on High Street and is listed on the National Register.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cutter, W. R., Historic Names and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs: Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. New York, 1908.

Hurd, Daniel H., History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia, 1890.

(Continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20

Quadrangle name Lexington

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	3	2	0	9	0	0	4	7	0	0	7	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B 

1	9	3	2	0	8	5	0	4	7	0	0	9	2	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

C 

1	9	3	2	1	1	5	0	4	7	0	1	0	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

D 

1	9	3	2	1	1	5	0	4	7	0	0	8	2	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached Engineering Department map (Town of Winchester, 1981, page 193). Boundaries reflect current lot lines, and include acreage which has always been associated with the farm.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director, with Bertha Hamilton and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia W. Weselowski 2/3/83

title State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/10/83

Julia Milores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Wright-Locke Farm

Continuation sheet Winchester, Massachusetts Item number 8

Page 1

Asa Locke's family occupied the farm and new house for four generations. Locke's two sons, Josiah and Asa, divided the property in 1872; the house, farm buildings and approximately 100 acres were retained by Josiah. Following Josiah's death in 1899, the property passed to his son George, who was responsible for the Colonial Revival alterations. Two subsequent land divisions occurred in the 20th century; by the time the farm passed out of the Locke family in 1974, only twenty acres accompanied the property.

The farm continued to operate as a market garden into the 20th century, supplying fresh produce and fruit almost daily to the Boston markets. Although Winchester, Arlington, Belmont and Watertown (all towns within a seven mile radius of Boston) each had numerous market gardens at the turn of the century, the Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm is the last to remain in agricultural use. Nine acres are currently in cultivation, producing fodder and a wide variety of vegetables.

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National Park Service**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Wright-Locke Farm  
Winchester, Massachusetts      Item number      9

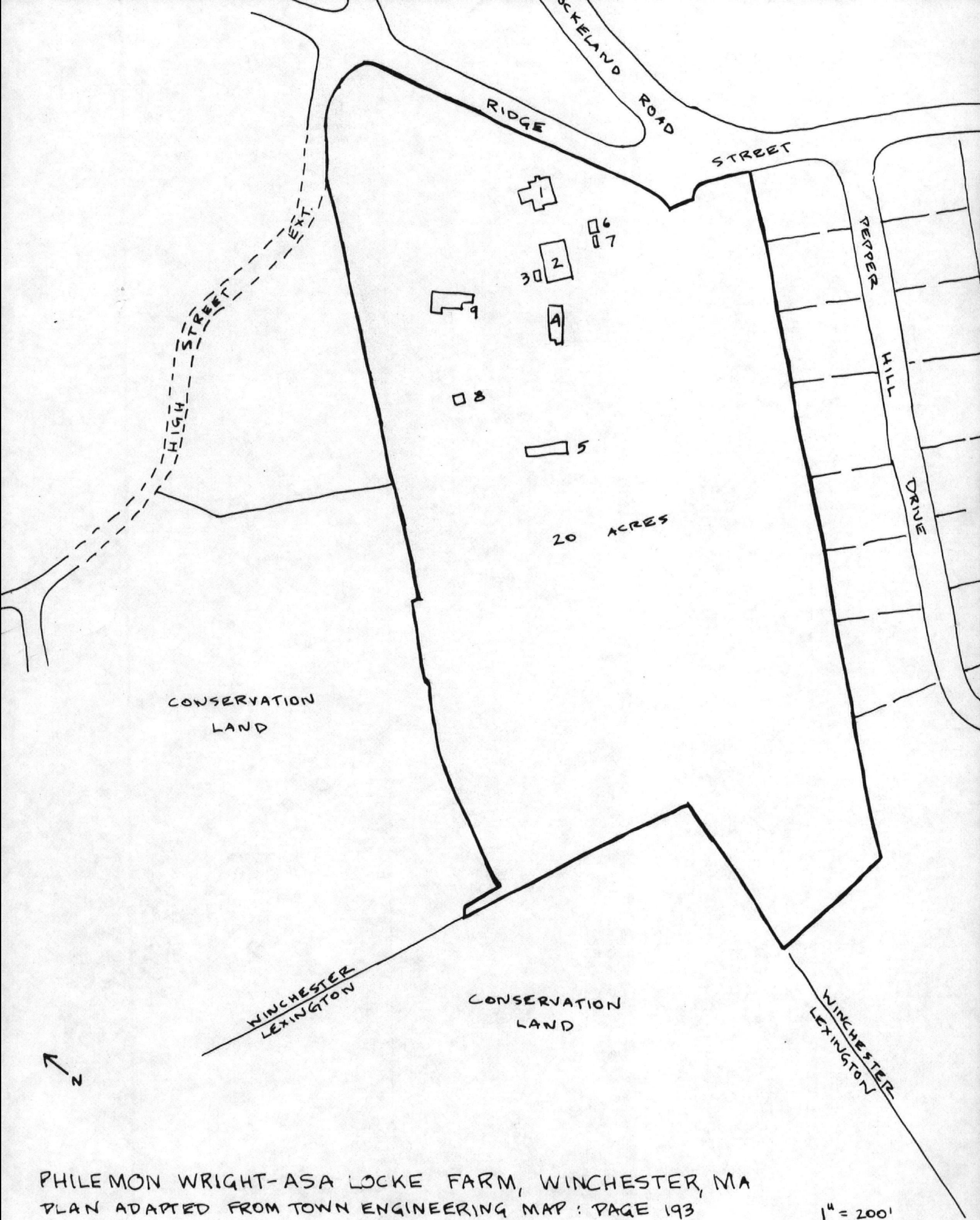
Page 1

Wright, Philemon, "An Account of the First Settlement of the Township of Hull,  
on the Ottawa River, Lower Canada" (Speech delivered to the Committee of  
the House of Assembly of the Canadian Parliament, December 16, 1820).

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Woburn town records (on microfilm at the Woburn Public Library).

Locke family records, photographs and conversations with family members.



PHILEMON WRIGHT-ASA LOCKE FARM, WINCHESTER, MA  
 PLAN ADAPTED FROM TOWN ENGINEERING MAP : PAGE 193

1" = 200'

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Wright, Philemon/Asa Locke Farm  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 8 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 3/10/83 - 3/25/83

Action:  ACCEPT 3/10/83

Entered in the  RETURN

National Register  REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3500



Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm  
Winchester, MA

Photo by Charles Mason, 1982  
Negative filed at 78 Ridge St.,  
Winchester, MA

Photo #1: View looking north at  
facade of 1828 farmhouse (#1)

UTM: A - 19/320650/4700900  
B - 19/320850/4700920  
C - 19/321150/4701000  
D - 19/321150/4700820  
E - 19/320820/4700620



Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm  
Winchester, MA

Photo by Charles Mason, 1982

Negative filed at 78 Ridge St.,  
Winchester, MA

Photo #2: View looking southeast  
toward farmhouse (#1), 1827 barn  
(#2), ice house (#3) & 1915 barn (#4)

UIM:

A - 19/320650/4700900

B - 19/320650/4700920

C - 19/321150/4701000

D - 19/321150/4700820

E - 19/320820/4700520



Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm  
Winchester, MA

Photo by Charles Mason, 1982  
Negative filed at 78 Ridge St.,  
Winchester, MA

Photo #3: View looking north toward  
wagon shed (#5) and reservoir roof  
(#8)

LIBS

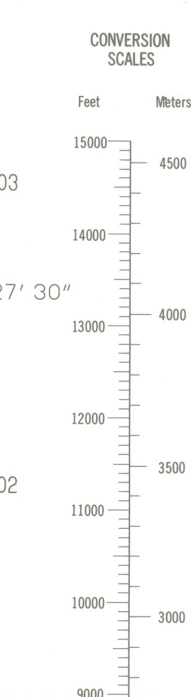
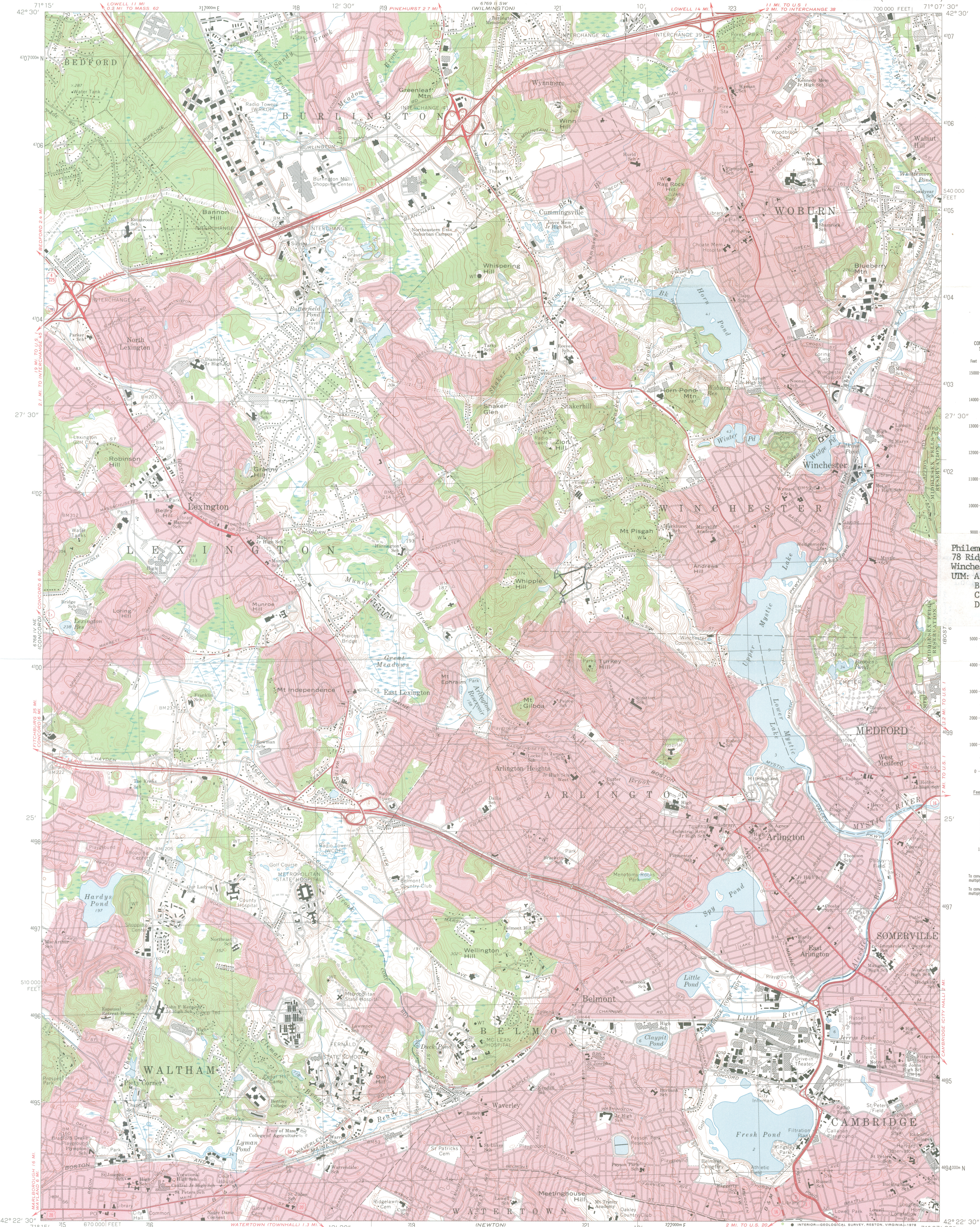
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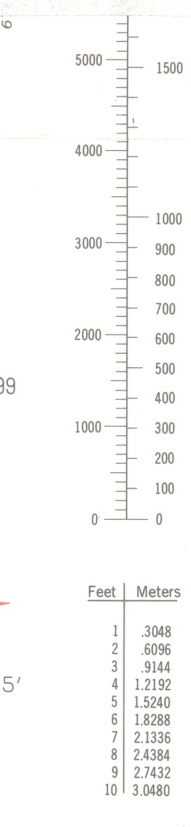
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D - 19/321150/4700820

E - 19/320820/4700620



Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm  
78 Ridge Street  
Winchester, MA  
UTM: A - 19/320900/4700700  
B - 19/320850/4700920  
C - 19/321150/4701000  
D - 19/321150/4700820



To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 3048

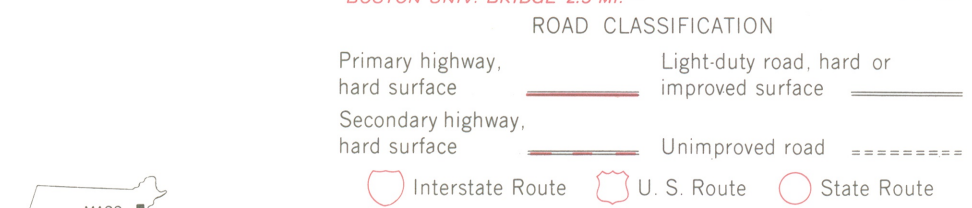
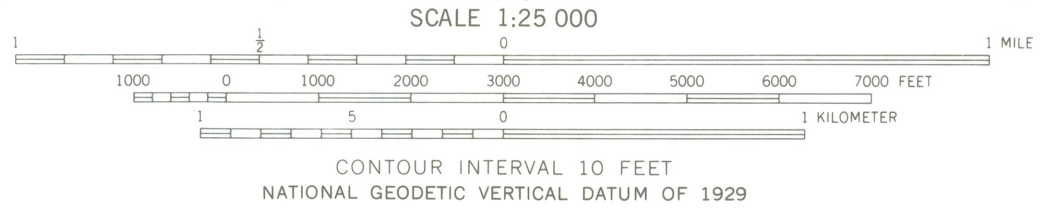
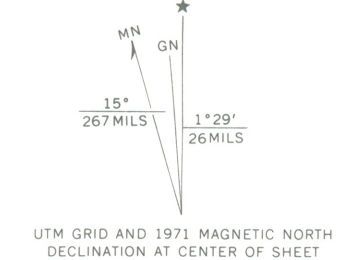
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts  
Geodetic Survey

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

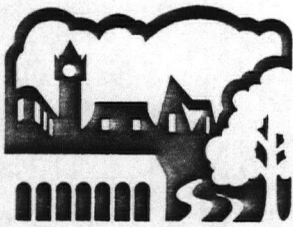
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark  
buildings are shown



LEXINGTON, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5  
1971  
AMS 6768 1 NW—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**MASSACHUSETTS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108  
617-727-8470

**MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY**  
Secretary of State

February 4, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Acton - Acton Center Historic District (local)  
Cheshire - Hall's Tavern (local)  
Essex - David Burnham House (national)  
Framingham - Concord Square Historic District (local)  
Framingham - Paul Gibbs House (local)  
Gardner - Garbose Building (local)  
Hopkinton - Hopkinton Supply Co. Building (local)  
Marlborough - Temple Block (local)  
Marlborough - Warren Block (local)  
North Adams - Church Street Historic District (local)  
Weymouth - Fogg Building (local)  
Winchester - Philemon Wright - Asa Locke Farm (local)

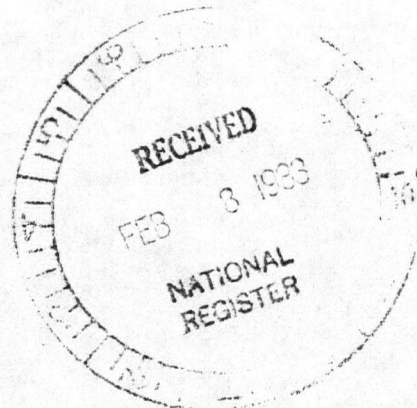
All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

*Candace Jenkins*

Candace Jenkins  
Registration Director

CJ/lk



YES  
RECEIVED:

DEC - 2 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

78 Ridge Street  
Winchester, Massachusetts  
December 2, 1982

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Attention: Valerie Talmage,  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 1982 in regard to the  
Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm.

We are delighted that the farm will be considered by the State  
Review Board on January 12, 1983, for nomination to the National  
Register of Historic Places.

With appreciation,

*Valerie Talmage*

*Winchester Historical Commission*

15 High Street, Winchester, MA 01890

December 30, 1982



Valerie Talmage  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RECEIVED

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Dear Ms. Talmage,

The Winchester Historical Commission wishes to support the nomination of the property located at 78 Ridge Street, Winchester, Ma. commonly known as "The Farm" and officially referred to as the "Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm" to be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Already recognized as an historic site by the National Capital Commission of Canada as the birthplace of the founder of Ottawa, Canada, Philemon Wright, the site represents a unique piece of Winchester's early history as one of the earliest settled and only surviving farm in Winchester.

It is our pleasure to support the efforts of the Farm's owner Mrs. Berth Hamilton in nominating the "Philemon Wright-Asa Locke Farm" to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia A. Krumme*

Cynthia A. Krumme, Chairperson  
Winchester Historical Commission