• Colonial/Native heritage trail

• North Acton Conservation

• 2 Mile loop
Moses Wood Farmstead (1774)

Chamber Dimensions

Archaeological Survey
• Smithy known in area
• Moses Wood was a smith
• Same builder for both structures
• Animal Pen?
• 1728 Foundation

• Oxen for Labor

• Droving corridor, well, stone floor, animal pens
**Original abutments at Footbridge Terminus**

**Leads to Pope Road**

**Wheeler requested**

**Wheeler built extensive causeway**
Blueberry Stone Pile Cluster

Trail Through Time

The small cluster of stone piles around you is representative of the local density of such features scattered along this southerly flank of the Nashoba Brook. Look for two clusters, a short distance southwest of this site where the density of stone piles is unusually large. Each is marked with a panel.

Stone pile groupings such as these, known in Algonquian as Kahoquekuk, were often created by Native Americans to commemorate an important event, death, or person. In other circumstances, stone piles, earthan mounds, or stone rows were constructed as part of an astronomical/ceremonial complex to establish significant astronomical events such as the solstice sunrise or set.

To designate an area as ceremonially important, another type of stone feature, called Sun cospeachnou, was created in Algonquian. It was occasionally seen, often far from modern trails. Such a feature, originally, was a single boulder with a fault line, deposited by the receding glacier. Over years of freezing and thawing, the boulder might be broken apart at the fault line. Such split boulders are recognizable by the matching faces at the receding cliff.

Evidence that such a pair was selected by Native Americans to designate an important ceremonial site lies in the presence of one or more small rocks placed into the cliff. Such rocks may be of different material and color from the host boulder/pair.

The smaller rocks may be angular or rounded. See photograph to right. Look for such an enhanced stone pair within the Princess Pine enclosure a quarter mile to the southwest.

Blueberry Vaccinium corymbosum

Blueberries, along with other berries, were a significant food resource for Native Americans. In New England, large areas where the bushes grew well were claimed by towns, and the bushes were burned annually to promote a good crop. Inadjoining lands to farms of the colonists, the suckers allowed berry patches as well as crop fields, and hunting and fishing areas.

• Half dozen stone piles
• Created by Native Americans to commemorate special events
• Natural World-Spiritual Quality
• Blueberries
The Plantain Stone Pile Cluster

A baker’s dozen stone piles

Indian piles vs field clearing piles
  - Same size vs many sizes
  - Shape constructed vs angle of repose
  - Groupings in open area vs next to wall or embankment

Downy Rattlesnake Plantain

Another archaeological feature at this site is a stone foundation set partially into the slope below the ring. A short distance uphill from this stone pile cluster, bricks have been found in close proximity, and the masonry technique is European. A story of an account taken up对策 to the moat, below the short path, installed with green screens, starting at the back of the cluster near the stone wall.

This foundation is not shown or mentioned in any deeds and maps of the town, however, this portion of the Nichols Brook Conservation Land was owned by Dr. Jonathan Davis of Reddough from 1765 to 1835. He was the father of East Dennis of nearby Rainbow Farm. Town records indicate that Dr. Davis was paid for medical services by the town.

April 2, 1765...at the same time an order to Capt. Davis for fourteen Shillings for fine Sand in the town... interracial the present and vibration the bank of the Privy Shilling which was due to Dr. Davis for taking Care of Aged Race when she was sick the whole of last Demands.

An interesting feature is the isolation of this foundation on the Davis parcel. As the land was owned for over 50 years by Dr. Davis, it is possible that building on this foundation saved a sick house, or what was commonly called a "poor house," for his family and/or other community members. There were no hospitals in the 18th century, and doctors, or communities, often set up post houses to keep infectious diseases under control.

The plant of this structure, with a huge chimney in the middle separating two rooms, would have provided for two hearths for upstairs and separate spaces for the patient and caregiver with less danger of contagion.

Photos and graphic map of cluster. Author/Enrica M. Huggins, archaeological.
Debated information about this site on websites on the Trail Through Time may be found at http://www.mom.com. Email for contact and possible donation is provided. Town History Society, authorized by a vote of town meeting adopting the Act of Community Preservation Act in 2002.
Pest House

Trail Through Time

• 100 Yards Upslope

• Unusual Shaped Foundation

• Two Rooms/Huge Chimney
Native American Historical/Astronomical Trail Through Time

• The Nashoba
• King Philip’s War
• Manitou stones
• Narragansett Tribal Preservation Office
Regional Native American Lifeways

Trail Through Time

In the late Mesolithic, long after the initial arrival of Subsistence, the tribes settled into the region. Their new homes were formed, and communities began to form. They were known for their hunting and gathering, and their communities were small and spread out. The tribes had a clear understanding of the seasons and their role in the environment. They were able to harness the power of the land and its resources, allowing for a sustainable way of life.

Tribal Territories

The tribes were divided into several territories, each with its own chief and council. The territories were much larger than the individual settlements and were spread out across the region. The territories were not fixed in place, but rather were moved according to the seasons and the availability of resources. This allowed the tribes to maintain a balanced and sustainable way of life.

Diet

The tribes were known for their diet, which was based on hunting, gathering, and fishing. They were able to adapt to the environment and obtain a variety of foods, including game, fish, and plants. The tribes were skilled at tracking and hunting, and they were able to gather a wide range of plants, including nuts, berries, and fruits. They were also able to fish, using a variety of techniques, including nets and spears.

Gardening

The tribes were also known for their gardening skills. They were able to grow a variety of crops, including corn, beans, and squash. They were able to adapt to the environment and grow a variety of crops, allowing them to sustain themselves throughout the year.

Conclusion

The tribes were a vital part of the region, and their contributions were invaluable. They were able to harness the power of the land and its resources, allowing for a sustainable way of life. Their understanding of the environment and their skills in hunting, gathering, and fishing were essential to their survival. They were a resilient people, and their impact on the region can still be seen today.
Native American Spiritual Beliefs

• Algonquin
• Great Spirit
• Burial Customs
Princess Pine Stone Pile Cluster

- Linearly arranged
- Summer and Winter solstice
- Observation Post
- Seep or Spring
• Unusual Outcrop

• Similar Composition

• Transport Down River?
• Thomas Wheeler early 1730’s
• Wheeler dam rebuilt over Blood Family dam
• Two Mills
  • Grist Mill
  • Saw Mill
Mill Masonry

Stone lined ditch and berm canal
Masonry gate at lower end
Two sluiceways brought water to wheels
Tub Wheel enclosure has been located
Grist mill foundation behind tub wheel
Vertical housing at 10’ drop
Pipsissewa Stone Pile Site

20 plus stone piles

Originates in natural embedded boulder field

Bedrock outcrop/sharp right angles

Evidence of wedge gouges
Pencil Factory Site

Ebenezer Woods

Existing 4 sided kiosk
• Trail routes
• Panel Infill
• Robbin’s Mill Dam
• Observation Platform