Union Turnpike

Frederic J. Wood, The Turnpikes of New England
Boston, 1919

p. 133 et seq.
Union Turnpike

2 Mar. 1804 Union Turnpike Corporation formed & authorized to build
"from where the Cambridge and Concord Turnpike Road terminates in Concord, in the most convenient and direct route, to the place where the fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Road terminates, in Leominster."

predecessor of Fitchburg Railroad - Hoosac Tunnel line anticipated by route over:

Cambridge and Concord
Union
Fifth Massachusetts
Fourteenth Massachusetts
Second Massachusetts
~~Williamsburg~~
Williamstown

} turnpikes

Petitions for location entered with Worcester & Middlesex Co. courts in 1805 - layout in Worcester made that year

layout from ~~Concord~~ county line to Main street in Concord reported Sept. 1806 –

Does not appear that either Canal & Concord or Union tpkes ever blt as far as Concord Common, tho' allowed to do so by their charters

at Sept 1808 term of Middx court, company reported its road was complete & asked for committee to view & accept it –

company filed returns of business done in 1809

tpke started at cor. of Main & Elm sts in Concord – followed present Elm st along north wall of Reformatory – then directly to West Acton, straight across Boxboro' to w. side of that town, where it curved slightly to northwest ran NW across Harvard, where rd long since disappeared & crossed northerly part of Lancaster to Leominster village where it connected with 5th Mass.

length abt 22 miles –
cost $ 35,483.71 –

returns of business done 1809 - 1814 showed excess of expenditures over receipts of $ 9660.35 (causes wonder that operations continued for 16 yrs more -

1819 proprietors released from liability to maintain E. end of rd - apparently portion betw. reformatory + Concord -

[re changes thro' Lancaster + Harvard]

1829 the road became free in Worcester Co.
1830 became free in Middlesex Co.