

Overview

We are now accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the 2024 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Deadline for submissions has been extended to Wednesday, October 4, at 11:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. In order to receive communications related to your LOI, please Safelist Notification emails from Submittable. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is similar to a mini-application, letting the National Trust know that you would like to nominate your site as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The LOI is designed to collect basic information about the endangered place. To fill out this form, you will need to know the location of the place, a bit about its history, the threat it now faces, and how you think it could be saved. Since 1988, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has published an annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places to raise awareness about the threats facing some of our nation's greatest treasures. The list, which has identified more than 350 sites to date, has been so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts that less than five percent of these sites have been lost. The National Trust will review all submitted LOIs and will invite select applicants to submit a full nomination in November 2023. The 2024 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places will be announced in May 2024. For information on how we evaluate applications, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions. As part of the National Trust's continued commitment to telling the full American story, we particularly invite nominations for historic places that highlight a unique or overlooked aspect of American history and that expand our understanding of our shared national heritage. To that end, we welcome nominations of historic places important to communities who are historically underrepresented within preservation, including, but not limited to, historic places associated with women, immigrants, Asian Americans, Black Americans, Latine Americans, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and LGBTQIA communities. For more information, visit <https://savingplaces.org/11most> For technical assistance with the application LOI form, please visit <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/> For any other questions regarding the 11 Most Endangered list, please contact 11Most@savingplaces.org

Name of endangered place	Minute Man National Historical Park and its historic environs located in the towns of Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, and Bedford Massachusetts
Location of endangered place	If your place includes more than one street address, please include only one street address as a reference point and describe more about your place in the "Additional comments on location of endangered place" field below. If your place does not have a street address, please describe the location in the "Additional comments on location of endangered place" field below.
Street address	174 Liberty Street (Minute Man NHP Head Quarters)
City	Concord
State or territory	Massachusetts
Zip Code	1742.0

Additional comments on location of endangered place (if applicable)	The historic sites (environs) surrounding Minute Man National Historical Park are located in the four towns within a three mile radius of Hanscom Field Airport.
Brief Summary of Place, Threat, and Solutions	The historic towns include the birthplace of the American Revolution, the cradle of the American Environmental Movement, and the home of the American Literary Renaissance. At the intersection of the four towns lies Hanscom Field Airport operated by the Massachusetts Port Authority. For many decades, the four towns, Minute Man Park, and the site stewards have advocated for mitigation of the negative impacts of the airport on the historic sites. In 2022, plans were announced to expand the airport layout and triple the infrastructure for private jets. FAA must not approve the expansion and Federal stakeholders must establish long-term protections.
Name of person submitting LOI	Alan Bogosian
Email address of person submitting LOI	
Phone number of person submitting LOI	
Are you submitting this application on behalf of an organization? (submitting on behalf of an organization is not required - individuals are more than welcome to submit)	Yes
Organization Name	Concord Historical Commission (Concord, MA)
Title of person completing application	Chair of the Concord Historical Commission

Tell us about the endangered place - what is its history?

The four historic towns and Minute Man NHP include 1,000 sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and 5,657 properties listed by the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Commission. Included are places associated with the first battle of the American Revolution on April 19th, 1775, the legacy of Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond, the homesteads of the authors Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne and Alcott, and properties connected with the Underground Railroad and Brister Freeman and Caesar Robbins, two enslaved men of African descent emancipated after their Revolutionary War service.

Minute Man NHP commemorates the opening battle of the American Revolution -- memorialized by Ralph Waldo Emerson as "the shot heard 'round the world." The Park is central to American civic life, hosting one million visitors annually. In 2022, Congress and the American people reiterated commitment to the Park, investing \$27M via the "Great American Outdoors Act." Walden Woods is a distinct 2,680-acre ecosystem and cultural landscape associated with Henry David Thoreau. Walden Pond, a National Historic Landmark (NHL) and iconic symbol of the environmental movement, attracts 600,000 visitors annually. Orchard House, also an NHL and home of Louisa May Alcott, author of Little Women, annually draws 100,000 visitors. Likewise, the Old Manse and the homes of Emerson, Hawthorne (all NHLs) and Thoreau attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. In 1990, Bear Garden Hill and Brister's Hill, landscapes associated with Thoreau and Brister Freeman, were saved from development, placed in permanent conservation and are visited by thousands of teachers, schoolchildren, historians and tourists annually. Robbins House, commemorating the life of enslaved Caesar Robbins, was moved to the Park in 2011 and shares stories, provides educational resources, raises awareness of Concord's African American history, and connects the early fights for freedom with modern social justice movements.

How is the endangered place threatened?

For decades, the noise, visual intrusions, and ground traffic generated by Hanscom Airport have negatively impacted Minute Man NHP and the other historic sites. These are not urban sites; they are located in undeveloped or sparsely developed areas of the semi-rural towns that still reflect their farming community history. The natural quiet of an authentic "soundscape" and "viewscape" are integral parts of the visitor experience of these properties that represent revered and treasured icons associated with the 18th and 19th centuries. In January 2023, the four towns, the Park, and the historic sites were informed that a private developer "Runway Reality Ventures" was proposing a plan for the "North Airfield" to develop 500,000 square feet (two-thirds of a mile) of private luxury jet infrastructure at the airport. This project involves the clearcutting and paving of forested land in order to build 27 hangars that would triple the current private jet infrastructure at the airport, housing up to 81 additional private jets. These large, international private jets would use the runway that directly overflies Minute Man NHP, Walden, and the historic homes. Most likely, the fuel needed for the jets will also triple, and the heavy tanker trucks will use the historic Battle Road as access to the airport (the Battle Road Unit is the centerpiece of Minute Man NHP, and the Battle Road Scenic Byway, an "All-American Road," also runs through the Park). This expansion plan is the largest single development ever proposed in the history of the airfield and stands to dramatically and irreparably impact the Park and the historic sites; these irreplaceable sites either directly abut or lie within three miles of Hanscom Airport. The airport expansion plans are opposed by all four town select boards, site stewards, numerous elected state representatives, and a coalition of environmental organizations.

How do you think the endangered place could be saved?

In 2000, President Clinton initiated the formation of a "Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation establishing the Hanscom -- Minute Man National Park Working Group to Promote the Long-term Protection of Resources of the Minute Man National Historical Park and Other Significant Historic Sites in the Vicinity of Hanscom Field." Its purpose was to engage local, State and Federal stakeholders to protect the historic resources from current and future adverse transportation impacts. This Federal Interagency Working Group has never been terminated but has never been effectively implemented since its inception in 2000. A re-listing of Minute Man Park and its historic environs as an "11 Most Endangered Historic Place" would serve to underscore the urgent need for the Federal agencies (DOT/FAA), in position to affect the approval of this development plan, to unite in opposition to this inappropriate and harmful private jet expansion proposal. The Trust's listing would be especially impactful in 2024, as the 250th Anniversary of April 19th, 1775 will be commemorated statewide in 2025 with Minute Man NHP and its environs being a centerpiece of the celebrations. Recognition by the National Trust would shed a critical light on the need to protect and preserve the story of our nation, of our people, and of our democracy – for now and for the generations to come. In addition, private jet travel is now recognized as the most environmentally unsound form of travel one can engage in. This proposal is antithetical to the Massachusetts Net Zero 2050 Climate Goals, and it is sadly ironic that this private jet expansion plan, perhaps the largest in the USA, is proposed to take place next to the cradle of the American Environmental Movement -- Thoreau's Walden.

If available, provide links to any websites dedicated to the threatened place, or media coverage of the threatened place (a website or media coverage is not required in order to submit an LOI)

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/09/29/opinion/hanscom-airport-jet-expansion-massport/> www.StopPrivateJetExpansion.org <https://saveourheritage.com> <https://www.stopprivatejetexpansion.org/news-coverage>

Have you spoken to any National Trust staff about the endangered place? (speaking to staff before applying is not required)

Yes

Name(s) of National Trust staff you have been in contact with:

Betsy Merritt and Alec Raday

How did you hear about America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places?

Walden Woods was listed in 1990 and 1991. Minute Man National Historical Park and the surrounding historic sites were listed in 2003.

Please upload at least 3 images of the endangered place

Please upload up at least three photos of the endangered place. Both historic and high quality contemporary images are acceptable. Photos must include at least one overall view of the place that is the focus of your nomination. Most images should be in a horizontal format. Select the highest dpi or pixel range possible—the bigger your image file, the better. We are looking for image files sizes 2 MB or larger. These will be used for digital and print reproductions so it is critical to provide the highest quality and largest images. Word documents with images embedded are not acceptable. Original photo files must be submitted. You may also share video file links. You may upload up to 10 files total.

Photo 1

Minute_Man_Park_1.jpeg

Photo 1 caption - describe the image. What does the image show?

This is a photo of the iconic statue by Daniel Chester French of the Minute Man (the "embattled farmer" Ralph Waldo Emerson commemorates in his 1837 poem: The Concord Hymn. The statue stands at the North Bridge Unit of the Park.

Photo 1 credit - who took the image? Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

The photo courtesy of Minute Man NHP - photo by Victoria Stauffenberg

Year Photo 1 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure)

2000

Photo 2

Minute_Man_Park_2.jpeg

Photo 2 caption - describe the image. What does the image show?

The Old North Bridge where the British encountered the Minute Men, and the shot was fired "heard 'round the world." Park interpreters engage with visitors to recount the history of the area and the conflict that arose.

Photo 2 credit - who took the image? Courtesy of Miute Man NHP - photo by Victoria Stauffenberg
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 2 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) 2000

Photo 3

Minute_Man_Park_3.jpeg

Photo 3 caption - describe the image. Minute Man NHP - Captain William Smith House (1692). It is set back from Battle Road and atop a grassy knoll; it is located on Park land that directly abuts Hanscom Field Airport.
What does the image show?

Photo 3 credit - who took the image? Courtesy Minute Man NHP - photo by Victoria Stauffenberg
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 3 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) 2000

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 4

Walden_Pond_1.jpg

Photo 4 caption - describe the image. Walden Pond (in Walden Pond State Reservation). This is where Henry David Thoreau lived from 1845-1847 and wrote his book Walden
What does the image show?

Photo 4 credit - who took the image? Courtesy The Walden Woods Project
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 4 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) Approx. 2015

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 5

Orchard_House_1.jpg

Photo 5 caption - describe the image. The Orchard House, home of Louisa May Alcott - author of Little Women.
What does the image show?

Photo 5 credit - who took the image? Courtesy of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 5 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) approx. 2018

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 6

R_W_Emerson_House_1.jpeg

Photo 6 caption - describe the image. Visitors at the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson -- 19th century writer, lecturer, and poet.
What does the image show?

Photo 6 credit - who took the image? Courtesy Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 6 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) 2019

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 7

Map_of_sites.jpg

Photo 7 caption - describe the image. This map shows the location of the Minute Man NHP and the surrounding historic sites and their proximity to Hanscom Airport.
What does the image show?

Photo 7 credit - who took the image? Courtesy Save Our Heritage
Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 7 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) 2002 - updated 2023

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 8

Project_map.JPG

Photo 8 caption - describe the image. What does the image show? The proposed 500,000 square foot expansion plans for 27 luxury private jet hangars at Hanscom Field Airport.

Photo 8 credit - who took the image? Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use. Runway Reality Ventures LLC -- public record

Year Photo 8 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) 2022

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 9
robbins.jpeg

Photo 9 caption - describe the image. What does the image show? The Robbins House, located on Minute Man NPS land, tells the stories of the first generations of free Concord African Americans, their pursuit of independence and their involvement in the anti-slavery and abolitionist movements.

Photo 9 credit - who took the image? Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use. Courtesy of The Robbins House

Year Photo 9 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) approx. 2015

Do you have another photo to add? Yes

Photo 10

brister_freeman_marker.jpg

Photo 10 caption - This stone is located on Brister's Hill next to the "Bench by the Road" and describe the image. honors the enslaved and emancipated Brister Freeman. The Bench was What does the image placed by the Toni Morrison Society and the Walden Woods Project. show?

Photo 10 credit - who Courtesy The Robbins House took the image?

Provide all names including photographer, videographer, and/or organization that owns copyright and is providing permission for use.

Year Photo 10 was taken (can be approximate if you aren't sure) approx. 2017

(Optional) I'd like to subscribe to the National Trust's weekly newsletter to get the latest on how we're working to save America's historic sites. unchecked