

Final Project Report

Concord Through Time



Abstract

Concord, Massachusetts, is widely recognized as the site of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, a major turning point in the beginning of the American Revolution. As the town approaches the 250th anniversary of these events, this project explores how Concord's identity has evolved from a revolutionary battleground into a modern community shaped by civic engagement, preservation, and public contribution. The goal of this project is to show that Concord's legacy extends far beyond its role in American history by highlighting how the town has continued to grow through preservation efforts, recreation, tourism, and community leadership. This project aims to present Concord not only as a historic town, but as a living example of how history and civic identity continue to shape one another over time.

Description

INTRODUCTION

Concord, Massachusetts, is one of the most historically significant towns in the United States because of its role in the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, often recognized as the beginning of the American Revolution. While Concord is widely known for its historical importance, the town's identity has continued to evolve over the last 250 years through preservation, civic engagement, recreation, education, and community development. As Concord celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, this project aims to explore how the town has transformed from a revolutionary battleground into a modern community that continues to value public contribution and historical preservation.

MOTIVATION

I chose this topic because I have a personal connection to Concord. My grandfather, Pete Funkhouser, was recently recognized as Concord's Honored Citizen for his contributions to the community through projects focused on recreation, restorative justice, and public development. Seeing the connection between Concord's historical legacy and the people who continue contributing to the town today inspired me to focus this project on the idea of civic legacy across generations.

PROJECT PLAN

The goal of this project is to create an interactive data story that follows Concord's development from the Revolutionary War to the present day. The visualization will begin by exploring the Battles of Lexington and Concord through historical maps, timelines, and geographic data showing important routes and landmarks connected to the events of April 19, 1775. Through maps, charts, and timelines, the project aims to demonstrate that Concord's legacy did not end with the American Revolution but continues today through ongoing community involvement and civic leadership.

Datasets

Concord, Massachusetts Income:

<https://www.neilsberg.com/insights/topic/concord-ma-income/>

Concord, Massachusetts Annual Population and Growth Analysis Dataset:

<https://www.neilsberg.com/research/datasets/bf2c0eb9-4dd0-11ef-a154-3860777c1fe6/?req=download&type=csv>

QuickFacts Concord town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/concordtownmiddlesexcountymassachusetts/PST045224>

Searching for the Soldiers at Lexington and Concord:

<https://boston1775.blogspot.com/2010/07/searching-for-soldiers-at-lexington-and.html>

Collection Lexington and Concord collection, 1775:

https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-wcl-M-375lex_al_4bf70b448ac8351a147acff1dd8b1c0b9a791980#contents

Minute Man Soldier Search: <https://friendsofminuteman.org/soldier-search/>

Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls, 1775-1783:

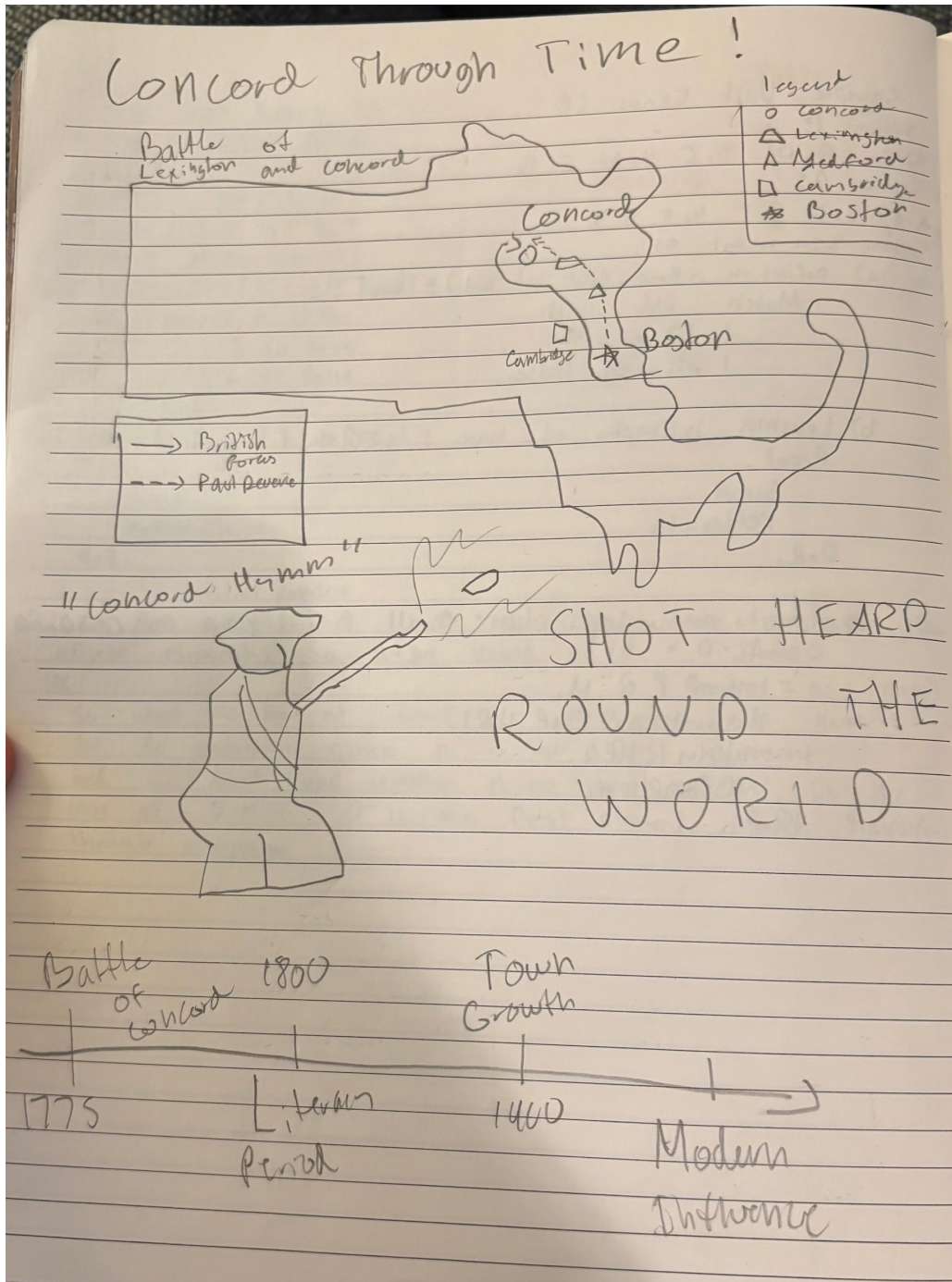
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2548057>

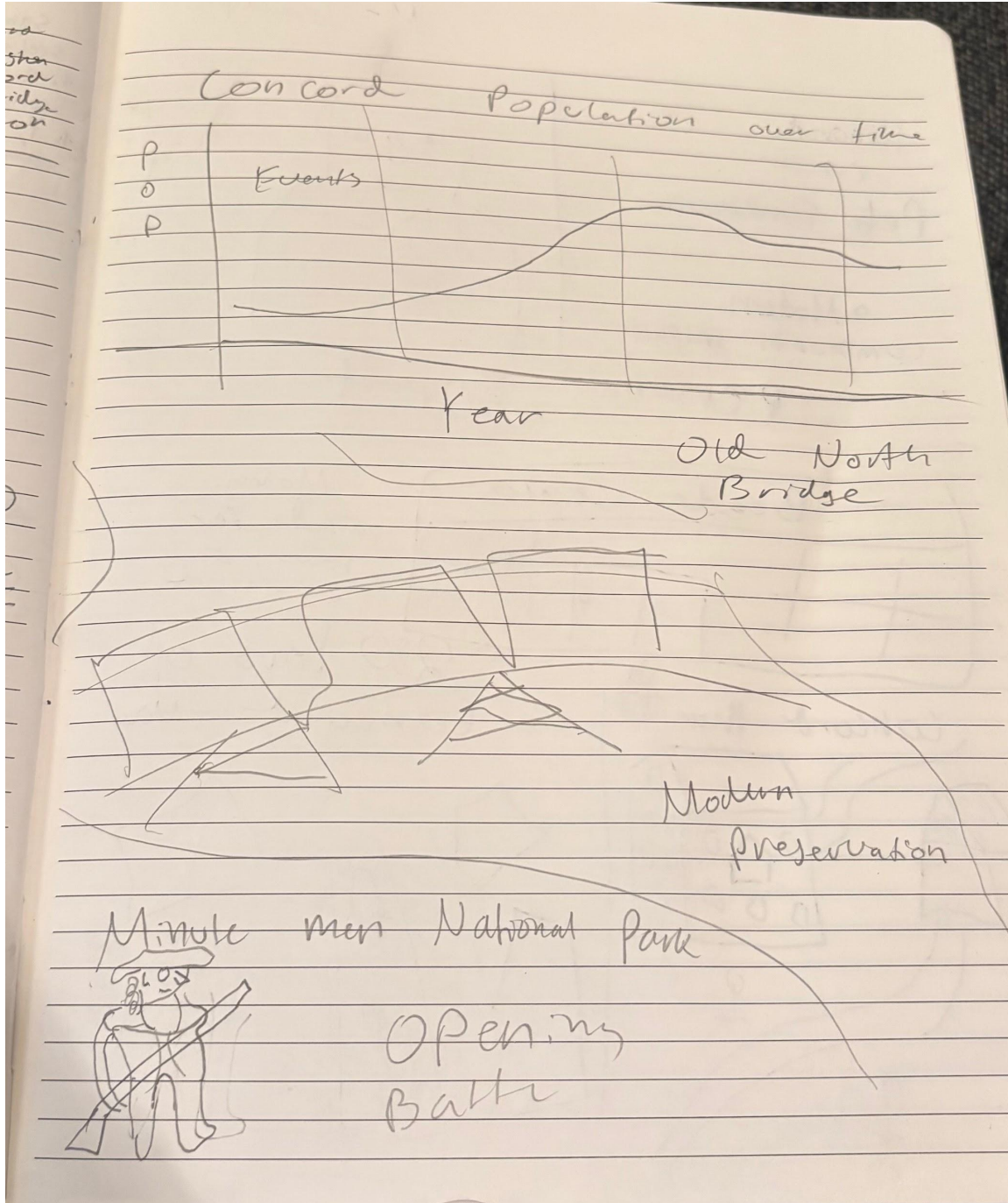
visitation to Minute Man NHP <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/>

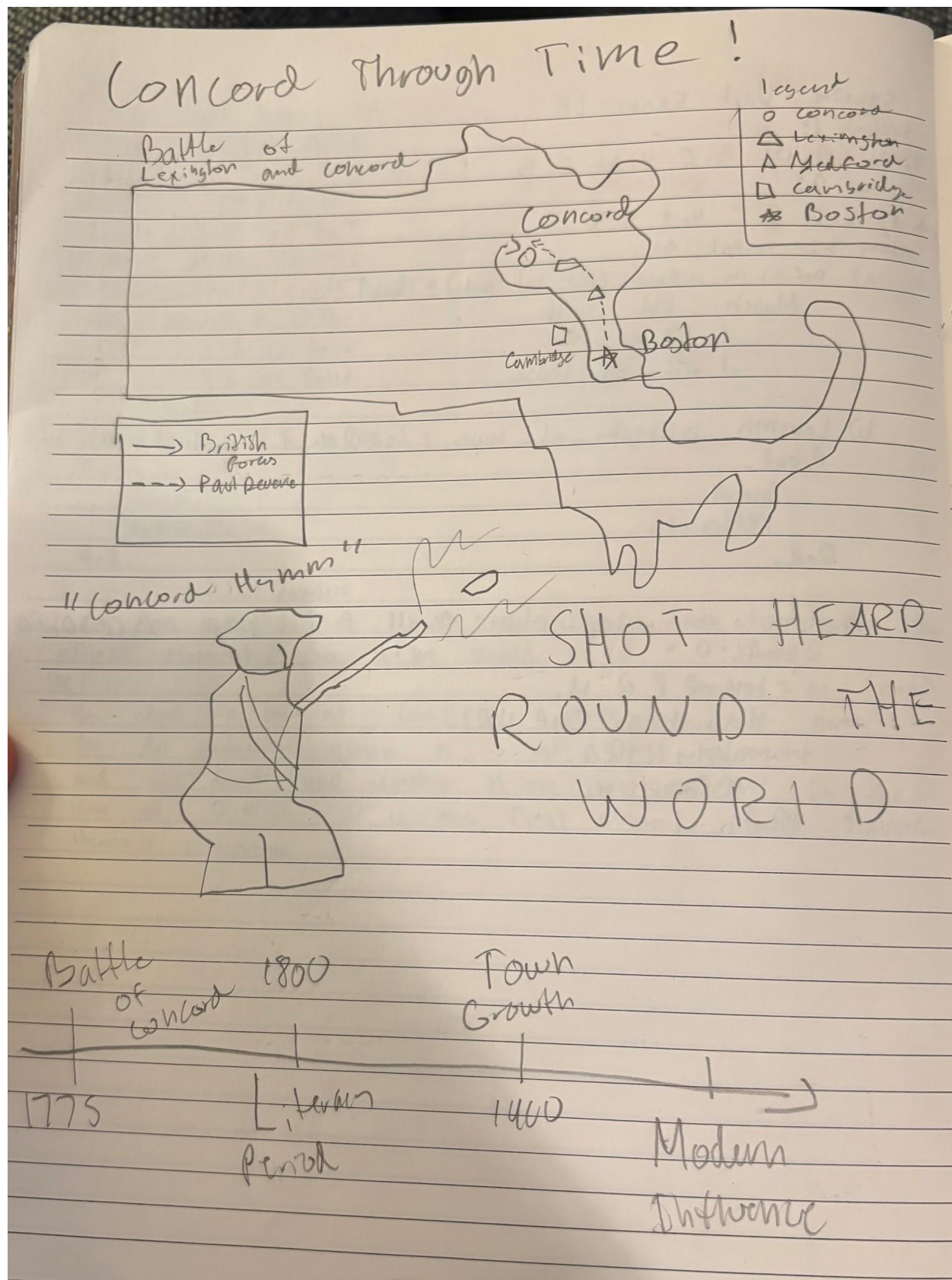
Conservation:

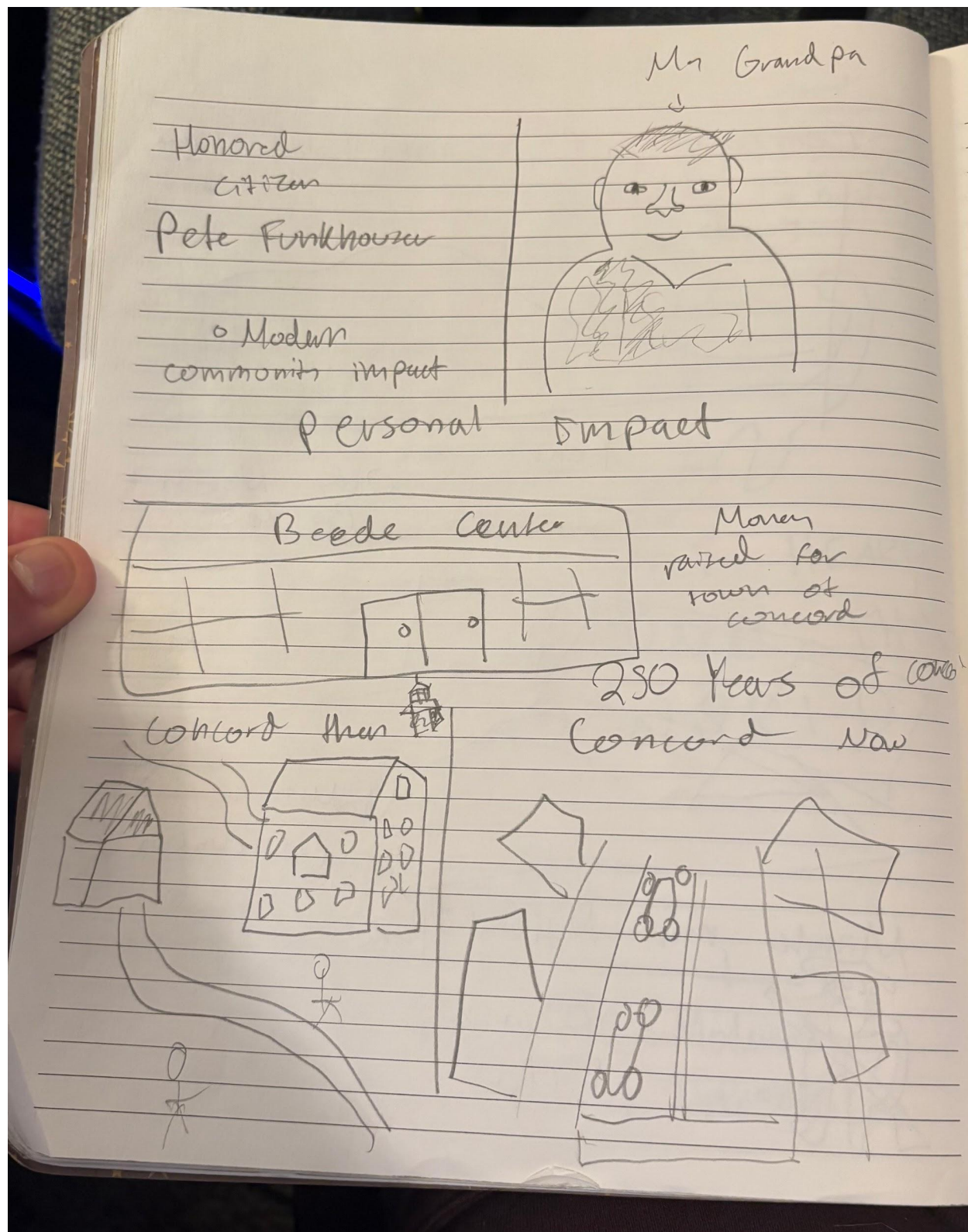
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-protected-and-recreational-openspace>

Paper Sketches









Technologies

Google Colab + Python for cleaning
HTML/CSS/JavaScript for the website
Plotly.js for charts
Claude Code
Codex
ChatGPT

References

<https://concordbridge.org/index.php/2026/03/27/honored-citizen-pete-funkhousers-legacy-of-recreation-rehabilitation/>
https://public-nps.opendata.arcgis.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.comhttps://public-nps.opendata.arcgis.com/?
<https://concordma.gov/3310/Researching-Historic-Properties-in-Conco?>
<https://mhc-macris.net/>
<https://gis.data.mass.gov/search?collection=appAndMap&layout=grid&tags=national%2520register%2520of%2520historic%2520places&>
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/1857/john-parker>
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ralph-Waldo-Emerson>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisa_May_Alcott
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_David_Thoreau
<https://www.discoverconcordma.com/articles/311-the-concord-female-anti-slavery-society>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Fuller
<https://www.nps.gov/mima/learn/historyculture/thewaysideharriettlothrop.htm>
https://www.justgotravelstudios.com/blogs/just-go-travel-blog/minute-man-national-historical-park-massachusetts?srsId=AfmB0opNbKMPNrwkV-2tZPA0oPg_7cyLbx35PKZ0omjcpmmB2QoBQTmL
<https://www.redtailodge.com/blog/minute-man-national-historical-park-october-12th-2021>
<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/tag/mimi-graney>
<https://concordbridge.org/index.php/2026/03/27/honored-citizen-pete-funkhousers-legacy-of-recreation-rehabilitation/>

Final Product

Concord Through Time is a website that tells the 250-year history of Concord, Massachusetts, through five data visualizations and historical photographs. The site moves chronologically from the 1775 Revolutionary War battle through the Transcendentalist movement, women's civic leadership, and modern conservation efforts. Historical portraits of Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott appear alongside biographical text, and modern civic leaders like Pete Funkhouser round out the story. Every section fades in on scroll, charts animate when they enter view, and stat cards count up from zero. The design uses a consistent parchment color palette, serif typography, and sepia-filtered photographs throughout.

Website: <https://will4260.github.io/Concord-Through-Time-617-Final-Project/website/index.html>