

***SITE #2: THE BARTON PROPERTY***

The Barton farm is one of the most extensive homesteads located within Black Rock Forest.<sup>1</sup> Covering several dozen acres, the farm is divided by stone walls into approximately eight fields and a homestead area. The extent of such an impressive wall system, as well as the sizes of stones comprising these walls, indicates that this land was used for agricultural purposes over numerous generations. The Bartons lived on this site since at least 1875.<sup>2</sup> Whether they occupied the land prior to this period is unknown, but the stone walls suggest that this land was being farmed much earlier than this date. In order to cultivate such holdings the Bartons undoubtedly relied on domesticated animals including oxen and horses. They, like many of Black Rock's early residents, probably also relied on dairying and cordwood cutting to supplement their agriculture. The small pond in their western-most field would have been a convenient water source for livestock. The family also sold peat from what was known during the late 19th century as "Barton's Swamp."<sup>3</sup> Black Rock Forest constructed the cinderblock foundation located in the middle of the farm, and has maintained the clearing to its south, making it more difficult to ascertain the land use of this area. The Barton house is believed to presently lie under the waters of the Upper Reservoir.

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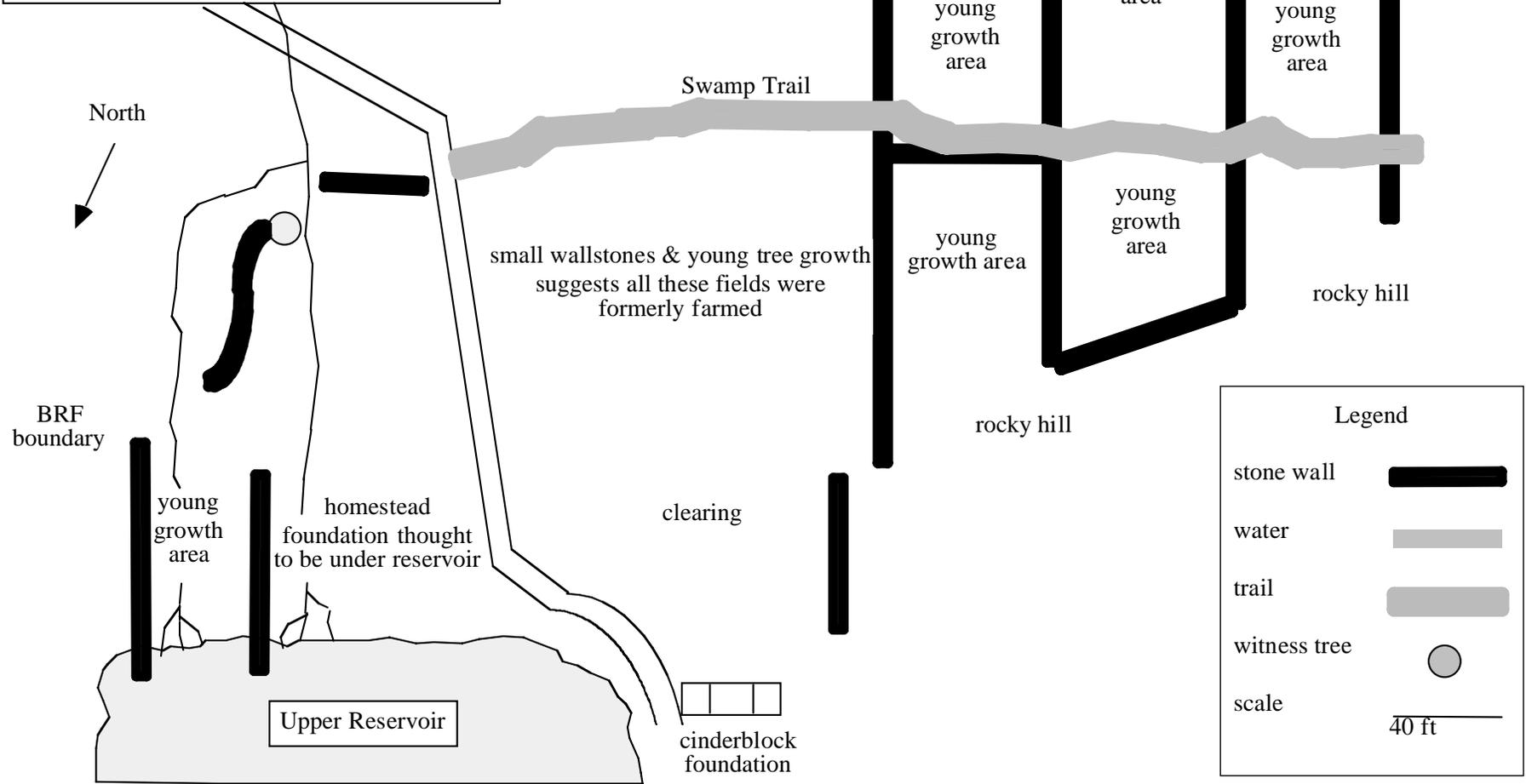
<sup>1</sup> The location of the Barton homestead is noted on Black Rock Forest Compartment IV Map, Black Rock Forest Archives, Cornwall, New York.

<sup>2</sup> E.M. Rutenber, *History of the County of Orange: with a History of the Town and City of Newburgh* (Newburgh, New York: E.M. Rutenber & Son, Printers, 1875), 62.

<sup>3</sup> Rutenber, *History of the County of Orange*, 62.

Site #2: The Barton Property  
Location: Southern Shore of Upper Reservoir  
Map Created by Neil M. Maher

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North

mature forest area

Swamp Trail

young growth area

young growth area

pond

young growth area

small wallstones & young tree growth suggests all these fields were formerly farmed

young growth area

young growth area

rocky hill

BRF boundary

young growth area

homestead foundation thought to be under reservoir

clearing

rocky hill

Upper Reservoir

cinderblock foundation

Legend

stone wall

water

trail

witness tree

scale

40 ft