

SCARLET OAK
Quercus coccinea

Location Corner of field on Beaucher property uphill from 36 Coffin Street

Physical Characteristics

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Height (ft.) | 72 |
| Circumference (in.) | 95 |
| Spread (ft.) | 90 |
| Points | 189.5 |

Estimated Age 121 yrs. (1899)

Commentary

Nominator: I have enjoyed this tree while walking on this property (with permission) for 22 years. I have always appreciated this magnificent oak. [now threatened by development]

Committee: Located on the Beaucher property, this tree stands alone at one inside corner of the property fairly close to (but not visible from) Coffin Street. It is a significant landscape feature. This tree has personal history with neighbors who visited the fields on the property while it was still owned by Ed Beaucher. Among them is Kelly Scott (in photo below), who grew up and still lives at 36 Coffin Street on land about 0.2 miles from this tree. She remembers reading books as a child and teenager while reclining against the trunk of this tree.

Other Committee Comments

The landscape value of this tree, shown in the photos, gives it significance. Likely taking root at the end of the 19th century, this tree weathered the heavy agricultural eras in West Newbury history, and probably stood above all agricultural activity in the surrounding fields from the 1920's forward. In addition, the commentary from neighbors who visited and remarked upon this oak for over 40 years also confers substantial significance from a cultural and historical standpoint.

The list of Massachusetts champion trees has no listing for Scarlet Oak, so no comparative point value is available. Sibley's *Guide to Trees* states that this tree is "often 80' tall (maximum 181)". Peattie, in *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*, states that "since it [scarlet oak] grows abundantly on the shores of Massachusetts Bay, it must have been one of the first trees the Pilgrims saw."

Photo(s)



Nominated by: Kathy Feehery, 28 Coffin Street, West Newbury

Date Approved by Committee: October 15, 2020