

**FORM C - OBJECT**

Assessor's number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

65-262-5 Billerica   942

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town**  
 Chelmsford  
**Place** (neighborhood or village)  
 East Chelmsford

**Address or Location**  
 127 Riverneck Rd., opposite Canal Rd.

**Name**  
 Middlesex Canal Monument  
**Ownership**  Public  Private

**Type of Object** (check one).

- statue
- bust
- group composition
- religious shrine
- boundary marker
- other (specify)
- monument
- milestone
- marker

**Date of Construction**  
 fall 1987; dedicated May 4, 1991  
**Source**  
 monument; Towpath Topics; notes of Jane Drury

**Designer/Sculptor**  
 Burt ver Planck

**Materials**  
 Bronze plaque with gold lettering on gray granite stone from LaMasurier Quarry, Chelmsford

**Alterations** (with dates)  
 none

**Condition**  
 Excellent  
**Moved**  no  yes **Date**

**Acreage**  
 2.18 acres  
**Setting**  
 Next to the canal, on light industrial property, otherwise in light residential area.

**Recorded by**  
 Jane B. Drury  
**Organization**  
 for Chelmsford Historical Commission  
**Date** (month/year)  
 May. 2003

**Photograph**

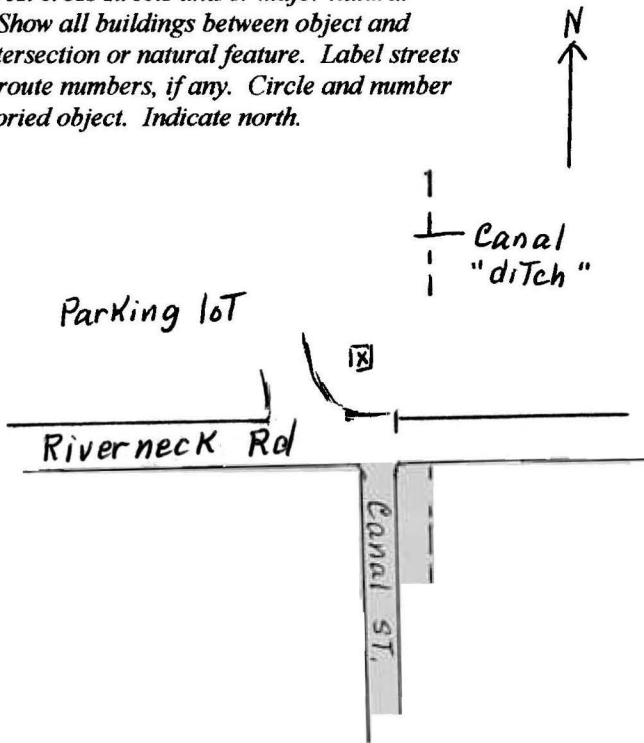
(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5', black and white only)  
 Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

roll      negative

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**Sketch Map**

Draw a map showing the object's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between object and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried object. Indicate north.

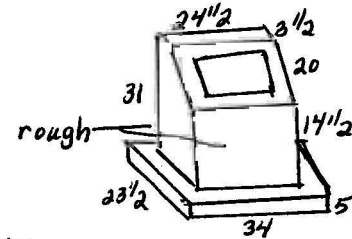


## OBJECT FORM

### DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

*Describe the design features of the object, and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

The design of the monument is similar to many others in Chelmsford, including cemetery monuments. However, it is made of Chelmsford granite, which does make it unusual. It is also taller than many other local monuments.



### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*Explain the history of the object, and how it relates to the development of the community*

Construction of the Middlesex Canal began in 1793 and the first boats ran in 1803, using water from the Concord River. The canal ran between Boston and the Merrimack River at what is now Lowell but then known as East Chelmsford. It predated the Erie Canal, whose builders came to this canal for ideas on erecting their canal. In 1808 U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin declared the Middlesex Canal "The greatest work of the kind which has been completed in the United States." The Middlesex Canal opened up New Hampshire and Vermont to the markets, and it was a big cause for Boston to become a big harbor instead of Newburyport. The arrival of trains put it out of business, and the last boat sailed in 1853.

Located on the south bank, or towpath, of the Middlesex Canal, this monument was one of several erected by the Middlesex Canal Commission in each of the canal towns. Each plaque is similar, except for the local map. The Chelmsford commissioners preferred to use local granite from the LeMasurier Granite Quarry which cut the granite to specifications. Gary Kinney, owner of the property where it was to be placed, prepared the hole and cleared out trees and brush in and beside the canal prism. After the Chelmsford Highway Department transported the monument to the site, Mr. Lemasurier placed the plaque on the monument. Although plans for the monument were begun as early as 1987, the monument was dedicated at a brief ceremony held at 2 o'clock on May 4, 1991. Following introductory remarks by local Commissioners Jane Drury and Robert Kuehn, statements were made by Atty. Arthur Eno, a founder and first President of the Middlesex Canal Commission, and State representative Carol C. Clevon.

### ENTIRE INSCRIPTION (if applicable). *see continuation sheet*

#### MIDDLESEX CANAL

1793 - 1853

[picture of canal boat]

At this location canal boats pulled by horses carried freight and passengers between Boston and the Merrimack River at Lowell before the days of the railroads.

The canal ran from Charlestown through what are now Somerville, Medford, Winchester, Woburn, Wilmington, Billerica, and Chelmsford to Lowell.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Towpath Topics, Volume 30, No. 2, March 1992

Canal Commission notes made by Jane B. Drury for May 4, 1991

Chelmsford Assessors' records

Monument inscription

Recommended for listing in National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
127 RIVERNECK RD

Area(s) Form No.

	942
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L - R

Robert Kuehn

Gary Kinney

Arthur L. Eno

Carol C. Cleven

Jane B. Drury





127 Riverneck Road, Middlesex Canal Monument 5/9/1991



**127 Riverneck Road, Middlesex Canal Monument 5/9/1991**