

#904

FORM C - MONUMENTS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Town Chelmsford

Street Bridge Street

Name Town Pound Marker

Original Owner Town

Present Owner Town

Date Constructed ca 1926

Date Dedicated _____

Source of Date Annual Town Report 2/14/1927

Designer or Sculptor _____

Individual or group responsible for monument
if other than owner _____

STATUE
BUST
MARKER
RELIGIOUS SHRINE
GROUP COMPOSITION

MONUMENT
FOUNTAIN
MILESTONE
BOUNDARY MARKER

Monument has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

Agriculture
Architecture
Art/Sculpture
Education
Literature
Music
Government

Commerce/Industry
Science/Invention
Travel/Communication
Military Affairs
Indians
Development of Town/City
Religion/Philosophy

CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered _____

IMPORTANCE of monument to area: Great Moderate None _____

MONUMENT endangered by: _____

LOCATION OF INSCRIPTION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other _____

Plaque on large boulder

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION on monument: "Site of Town Pound 1654 - 1895"

DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material Granite boulder ca 6ft high x 10ft wide

Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other _____

Setting (surroundings) in front of private yard; 2 ft. from road - on curve

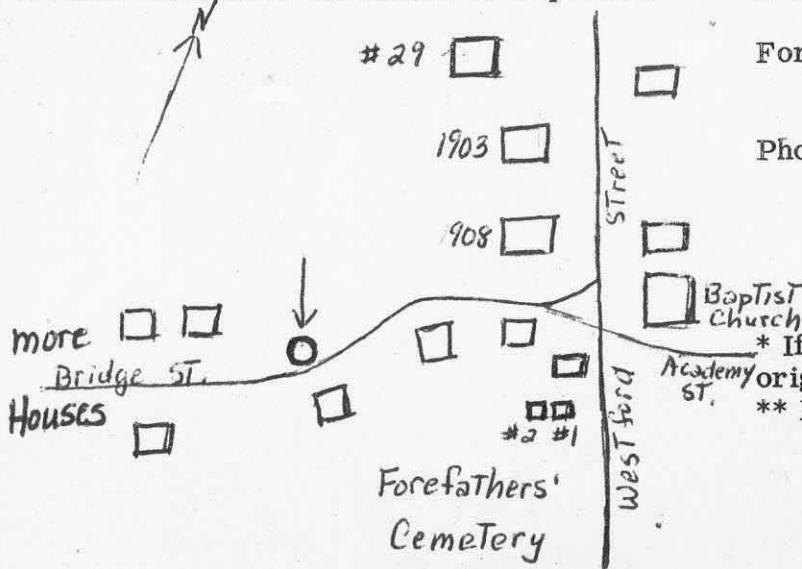
Size (approximate) 15" high x 12" wide

Indicate location of monument on map below

Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission
(Name of Organization)

Photo #10-10 Date Received 8/12/1974



* If the monument has been moved, indicate the original location on the reverse side.

** Describe the monument on the reverse side.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER AND/OR DESIGN OF MONUMENT

A town meeting held 2/11/1924 appointed a committee of 5 (including Rev. Wilson Waters, local historian) to mark the historic spots in town. At the meeting held 2/14/1927 Rev. Waters reported a marking had been placed on Bridge Street defining the Town Pound in the early days of Chelmsford.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT. (Refer to the theme circled on front of form. What happened? Who was important? Comment) This stone marks the site of the most recent town pound (all were in the same general area between the northwest corner of Forefathers' Cemetery and the "ministry" house #29 was built on ministry land.

Field-drivers were elected by the Town to protect wandering cattle & other animals from wolves and from doing damage, and to impound strays. Their fees were commonly called pound shot. 1674 records tell of the impounding of 8 pigs owned by Abraham Parker 4 times in the same year.

Records of the 1689-1692 period show men being paid for mending the pound.

In 1729 a wooden pound was built and called the new pound. It was replaced in 1765-6 by one made of stone with a gate of timber.

In 1821 a newer pound apparently was built when "the pound and land was exchanged for a strip of land belonging to Capt. Caleb Abbot between the pound and the meeting house."

In 1895 Bridge Street was widened and the walls of the pound (a small enclosure surrounded by a high stone wall) were removed and the land taken into the highway.

REFERENCE: (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Waters, "History of Chelmsford" (including notes by Rev. Wilkes Allen and early town records)

Annual Town Reports, 1924, 1925, 1927

Town Pound

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

Pg. 20 In the description of Mr. Fiske's land, opposite the ministry, the "Pound" is mentioned. This was a small enclosure surrounded by a high stone wall. The wall was removed and the land taken into the highway some ten years ago (about 1895. It stood just west of the N.W. Corner of the Cemetery) when Bridge street was widened and improved. Mr. Fiske's land extended down to the cemetery.

Pg. 422 Swine were allowed to go at large until 1793, when they were to be shut up During September and October.

Hog-reeves were chosen "to oversee swine and keep them in order." In 1824, twenty hog-reeves were chosen.

1670, March 20, all swine within the boundes of this town from 12 wekes ould and upward shall be soffitiently ringed from ye 10 day of April to ye 10 day of October on penalty of 12 d a swine and in case any swine shall do any damage in any inclosaer than the owneres therof shall pay for ye first trespase dobell damages &c.

1674. On account of trespass Ensign Will ~~Blache~~ Fletcher empounded eight swine of Abraham Parker four times the same year. We read a chuckle between the lines of the record. Poor Abraham would be the butt of the Town for a twelvemonth.

In 1677 "the Selectmen ordered that all fences within the limits of this Town shall be made up and repaired according to law to be sufficient against great Cattell," or, as the phrase is, "horse high, bull strong and pig tight."

In 1737 rams were ordered to be kept enclosed from August 20 to November 1.

From 1730 to 1795 Deer-reeves were chosen, to prevent the destruction of deer.

In 1693, the Town chose "men to loke after horses to se thay be acted with acordinge to lawe." For some time the practice varied from year to year, as to allowing animals to go at large. In 1824 swine were restrained, but horses and cattle were allowed to go at large.

Fence viewers looked after the fences.

Field drivers were elected by the Town to perform the duties of a hayward [?] to prevent wandering cattel from doing damage or becoming prey to wolves, and to impound strays. Their fees were commonly called pound-shot. This office has sometimes been bestowed good-naturedly upon the newest benedicts.

Pg. 430 An account of debts due to sevrall persons for servis done (1689-1692) include:

To Josiph Spaldige for mendinge the pound	00 01 00
To Samevll foster Juner for mendinge the pund	00 02 00

Pg. 814 1765. A new pound ordered to be built of stone. The old one was of wood, built in 1729, and called the new pound.

Pg. 679 1766. To Mr. John Robbins providing stones for Building the New pound	6.13.4
To James Dunn for Laying up the Stones for the New pound	2.13.4
To Josph Adams Junr. for Timber for the Gate of the pound.	0. 4.0

Pg. 818

1821. The pound and land was exchanged for a strip of land belonging to Capt. Caleb Abbot between the pound and the meeting house.

The above note is by the Rev. Wilkes Allen; Mr. Perham had a manuscript copy.

SITE
OF
TOWN POUND
1654-1895