FORM C - OBJECTS

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s) Forms within X 919

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard

**Massachusetts Archives Building** 

Boston, MA 02125

Town Groton

Place (neighborhood or village)

Groton Center

Photographs Address or Location Main St at at Old Ayer Road

Name Prescott Milestone

See continuation sheet

Ownership Public X Private

Type of Object (check one):

statue monument bust milestone X

group composition marker

religious shrine boundary marker

other (specify)

**Date of Construction 1787** 

Source Carved date

Sketch Map Designer/Sculptor Dr. Oliver Prescott Jr.

See continuation sheet Materials Slate

Alterations (with dates)

Condition Fair

Moved yes no X

Acreage

Setting Town Center

Recorded by Sanford Johnson

**Organization GHC** 

Date (Month/Year) 1/07

#### **OBJECT FORM**

#### VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT see continuation sheet

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

The Prescott Milestone at the corner of Main Street and Old Ayer Road in Groton is approximately four feet high and one foot wide. The slate marker is inscribed with a hand and pointed finger above a cyma reversa molding.

#### **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:** see continuation sheet

Discuss history of the object, and how it relates to the development of the community.

The Prescott Milestone was installed in 1787 by Dr. Oliver Prescott who lived at 170 Old Ayer Road (MHC #52). This example is one of four. The three others are located in front of the Groton Inn at 130 Main Street, (MHC #11), at the south end of Main Street on the west side near Old Ayer Road and near the Groton School on Farmers Row. State legislation passed in 1795 mandated towns to erect such markers but it appears the Dr. Prescott acted in advance of the requirement. Others in the state that predate the 1795 act were installed, according to Dr. Green's research in the 1890s, between the town of Milton and Boston in 1734 and in Quincy in 1720 and 1727. The Groton milestones were documented in drawings and photos by employees of the Historic American Buildings Survey, a New Deal employment program for architects and photographers, in 1940 and are available for viewing at the Library of Congress.

### **ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** (if applicable)

"36 Miles to Charles-R. Bridge / 1787"

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

Dr. Green's Historical Series, Volume 3, p. 412; Library of Congress Website, LOC.gov, American Memory Collection

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked you must attach a National Register Criteria Statement Form.

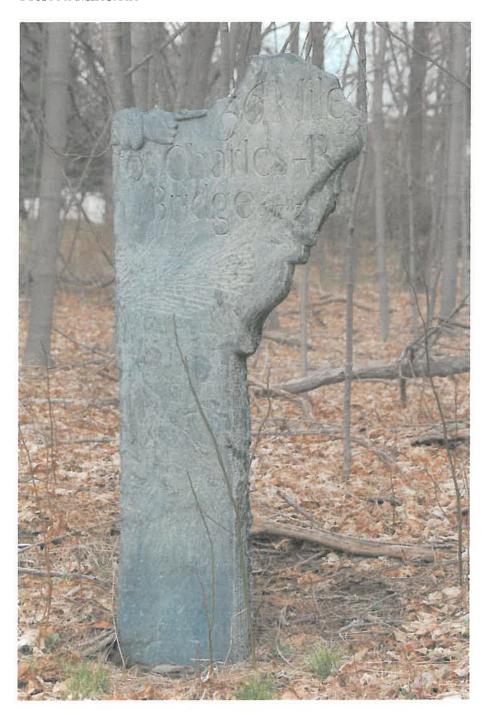
## **INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard Massachusetts Archives Building Boston, MA 02125 Town Groton Property Address
Main St and Old Ayer Road

Area(s)

**Form No.** 919

## Prescott Milestone



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Town

Groton

**Property Address** 

Main St and Old Ayer Road

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Prescott Milestone

