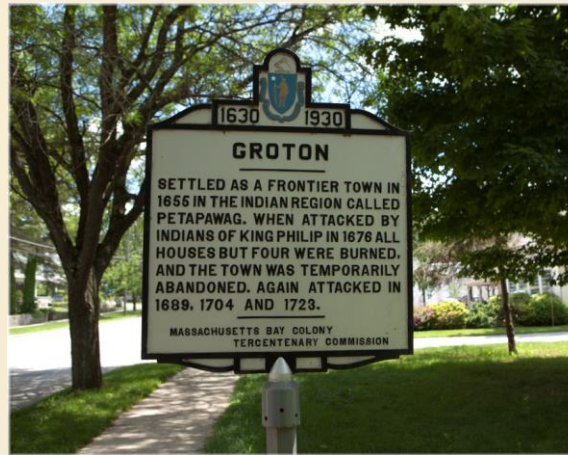


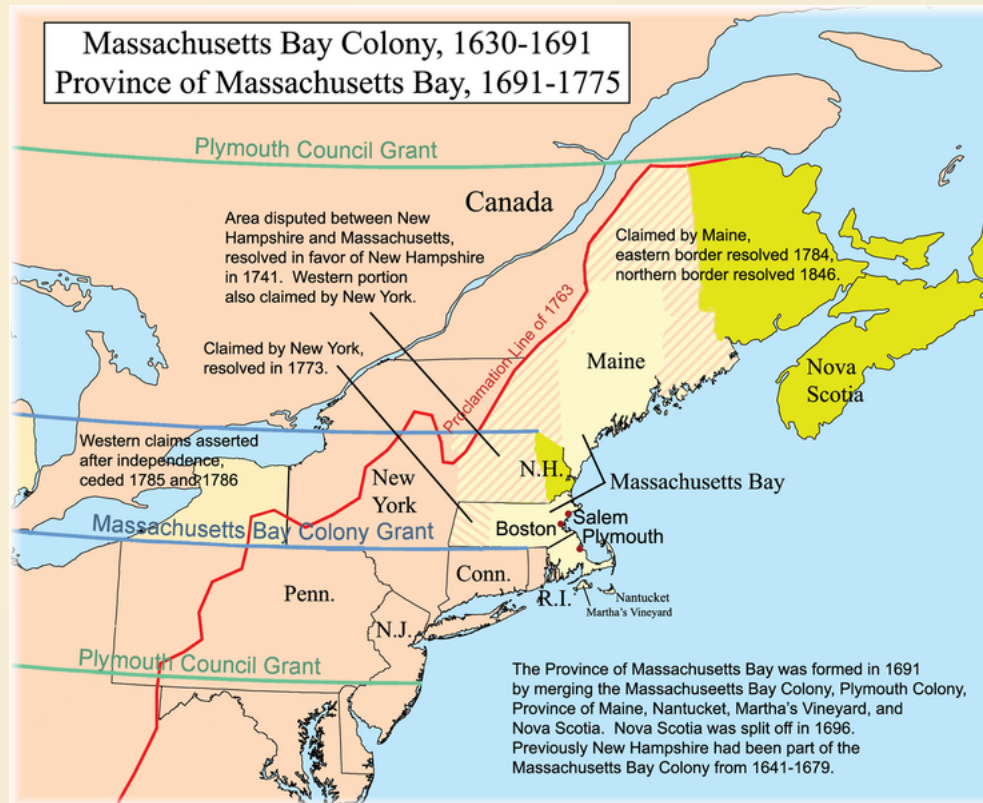
Roadside Marker Inventory Massachusetts Bay Colony- Tercentenary Commission Markers (MBC-TC) 1630 - 1930



Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and preparing for the 400th anniversary in 7 years.

Massachusetts Bay Colony

1630 - 1691



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Massachusetts Bay Colony

Historical Background

**Period of
Massachusetts
Bay Colony-
Tercentenary
Commission
Markers
(Approximately
1630 to 1750)**

Event	Date(s)	Commentary
Royal Charter Granted-Plymouth Council for New England	1620	One of the early charters issued to trading companies by the English crown. In December 1620 a permanent settlement was established through land patents granted by the Council (1621 and 1630) to the Plymouth Colony, governed separately under the <i>Mayflower Compact</i> .
Royal Charter Granted-Massachusetts Bay Colony	1629	Granted by Charles I, the boundaries of this new charter extended from the 40th parallel to the 48th parallel establishing colonial rights of the company "from sea to sea".
Arrival of the Arbella	1630	The first colonial governor (John Winthrop) arrives in Salem with 700 men, women and children to settle the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
Pequot War	1636-1639	Native American rebellion in southeastern Massachusetts, western Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut.
King Phillip's War	1675-1676	Native American rebellion in the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Rhode Island and Connecticut colonies.
Dominion of New England	1686-1689	Administrative union imposed on the New England colonies by the English crown.
Province of Massachusetts Bay	1691-1776	Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Plymouth Colony were united in October 1691 through a new charter issued by William and Mary, the joint monarchs of England and Scotland.
King William's War	1690-1697	European conflict with extended hostilities in North America.
Queen Anne's War	1702-1713	European conflict with extended hostilities in North America.
King George's War	1744-1748	European conflict with extended hostilities in North America.
French and Indian War	1754-1763	This conflict between England and France, known as <i>The Seven Years War</i> in Europe, was fought in North America primarily along the frontiers between the British colonies from Virginia to Nova Scotia.
Declaration of Independence	1776	American revolution establishes Massachusetts as one of the original thirteen states.

Historical background adapted from Wikipedia web based articles published by Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. under creative common license.

Marker Descriptions

- All markers are made of cast iron, both the post and the tablet.
- The background of the tablet is painted with aluminum; the letters and the trim in black; the coat of arms of the Commonwealth in blue and gold. The post is painted with aluminum.
- All the tablets are thirty-six inches in width; those bearing the longer inscriptions are forty-five inches high to the top of the coat of arms; those with the shorter inscriptions are thirty-five inches high to the top of the coat of arms. The weight of the larger tablet is about 200 pounds; the weight of the smaller tablet is about 65 pounds.
- The legend is the same on both sides of the tablet which is erected perpendicular to the road in order that a passer-by from either direction may read the inscription without descending from their car.
- Carlisle Foundry Company in Carlisle, Pennsylvania cast the markers.

Source: *Historical Markers Erected by Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission (1930)*; available from *The Internet Archive* at <http://www.archive.org/details/historicalmarker00mass> .

Total Markers Erected

275 Total Markers

95 Cities & Towns

9 Counties

Distribution by County:	Total <u>Markers</u>
Middlesex(Boston-West)	84
Essex(Boston-North Shore)	83
Worcester(Central Massachusetts)	33
Plymouth(Boston-South Shore)	23
Norfolk(Boston-South)	21
Franklin(Pioneer Valley-North)	12
Suffolk(Boston)	10
Hampshire(Pioneer Valley-Central)	6
Hampden(Pioneer Valley-South)	<u>3</u>
	<u>275</u>

Source: Compiled from the book *Historical Markers Erected by Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission (1930)*; available from *The Internet Archive* at <http://www.archive.org/details/historicalmarker00mass> .

Inventory of Standing & Missing Markers

Massachusetts Bay Colony-Tercentenary Commission

2011 Inventory Results:

Markers Still Standing	146
Missing Markers	128 *

Marker Distribution by County:

	<u>Total</u> <u>Markers</u>	<u>Missing</u> <u>Markers</u>
Middlesex	84	37
Essex	83	43
Worcester	33	10
Plymouth	23	10
Norfolk	21	14
Franklin	12	3
Suffolk	10	7
Hampshire	6	3
Hampden	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>275</u>	<u>128</u>

*** = Includes seven replica markers and nine in storage.**

Web Based Collection of Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission Markers

The website *Historical Markers Data Base (HMdb)* includes a series for the *Massachusetts Bay Colony-Tercentenary Commission Markers* under their Heritage Series at the below link:

<http://www.hmdb.org/results.asp?SeriesID=100>

Each standing marker entry in the *HMdb* series provides photography and GPS ground coordinates.

The original documentation text, published by the Commonwealth, *Historical Markers Erected by Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission (1930)*; is available from *The Internet Archive* at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/historicalmarker00mass>

Massachusetts Tercentenary Commission

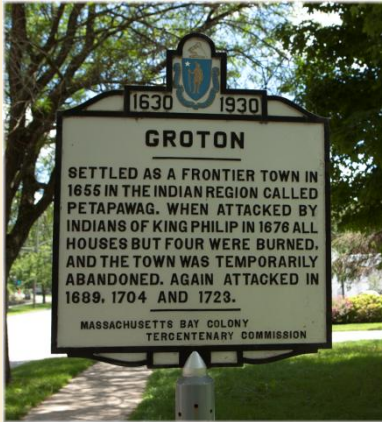
Conditions of markers

The existing markers can be grouped by their overall conditions:

- ***Good***
MBC-TC cast iron markers, restored to their original appearance.
- ***Bad***
MBC-TC markers which are not homogeneous with their original 1930 design . Can not be identified as MBC-TM markers without extended visual examination.
- ***Ugly***
These markers have fallen into disgraceful disrepair reflecting poorly on the State and diminish the significance of their subject. *Close to impossible to read unless you stand in front of the marker.*
- ***Missing***
These markers are unaccounted for. Some may be stored by town DPWs but cannot be located or confirmed.

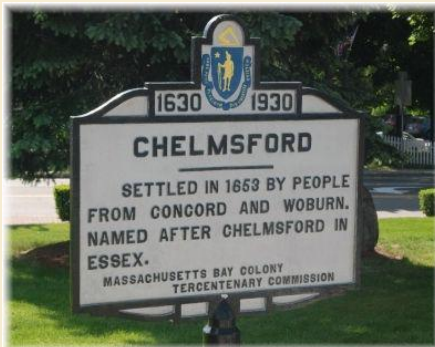
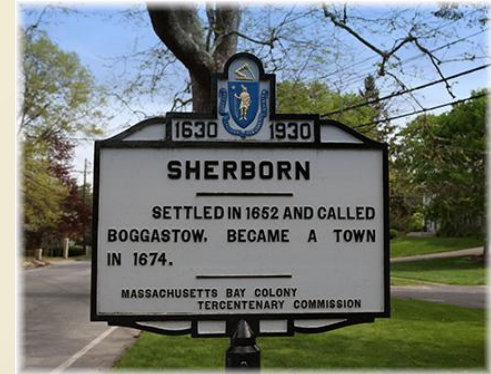
Massachusetts Tercentenary Commission

Examples of Good Markers



Groton- Main Street- Groton, Massachusetts

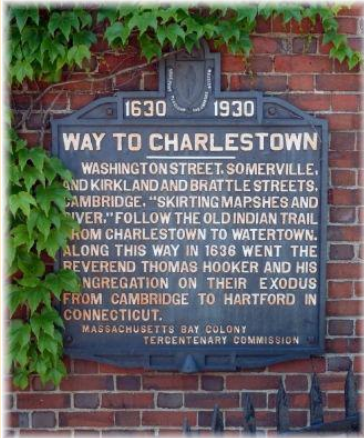
Sherborn- North Main Street- Sherborn, Massachusetts



Chelmsford- Chelmsford Street- Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Tercentenary Commission

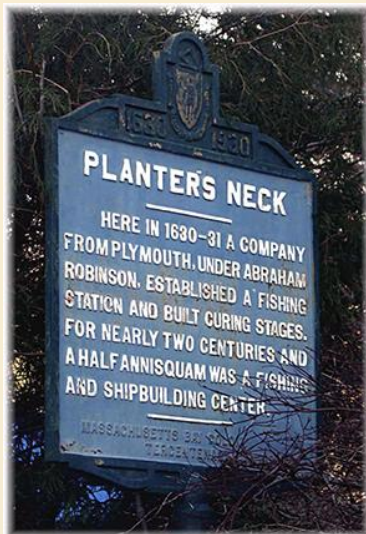
Examples of Bad Markers



Way to Charlestown- Massachusetts Avenue- Cambridge, Massachusetts



Jason Russell House- Jason Street- Arlington, Massachusetts



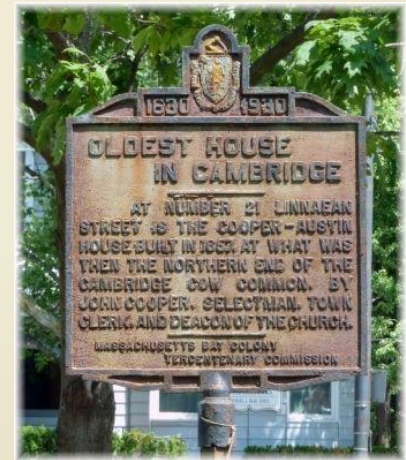
Planters Neck- Gloucester, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Tercentenary Commission

Examples of Ugly Markers



Wigwam Hill- Belmont Street- Worcester, Massachusetts



Oldest House in Cambridge- Massachusetts Avenue- Cambridge, Massachusetts



Lieu. Ebenezer Sheldon Fort-Northfield Road-Bernardston, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Tercentenary Commission

Remediation of markers

The actions needed for each of the four groups of markers:

- ***Good***
No actions needed.
- ***Bad***
Markers require minimal cleaning, repainting and remounting.
- ***Ugly***
Markers require extensive rehab, examination, sandblasting/cleaning, possible repair, repainting and remounting.
- ***Missing***
Each city/town needs to commit to searching DPW garages and any other likely location where the markers might be. For markers not found, a new marker needs to be forged and placed.

Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission Makers Inventory Acknowledgements

Russell C. Bixby of Bernardston performed an examination of the original marker documentation text **Historical Markers Erected by Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission (1930)**, to arrange the markers into a logical format for the 2011 inventory effort. He composed all inventory documents and initiated contacts with local historical societies and town officials to aid in validating the location of markers. Finally, he was instrumental in establishing a website series published by the ***Historical Marker data base (HMdb)***. Numerous field work trips were taken by all ***HMdb*** contributors to validate the existence of markers and gather GPS coordinates and photography.

Christopher C. Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission provided contact information for other citizens with an interest in preservation of these markers. In this regard, Robert J. Briere of the Sturbridge Historical Society contributed useful information derived from his 2005-2008 field work and photography. Michael Tiernan of Danvers provided valuable assistance in documenting markers located in Essex County.

Special thanks must be given to Mr. J.J. Prats; publisher of the HMdb website for providing a documentation media, entitled Massachusetts Bay Colony-Tercentenary Commission Markers, under their Heritage Series.

Contact Information

Russell C. Bixby may be reached at the below contacts to obtain an electronic (PDF) copy of the 275 MBC-TC marker inscriptions; with GPS coordinates and photographs of standing markers:

Email: rbixby1@outlook.com

Telephone: 413-834-2290 (Text or Voice)