

**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

*See continuation sheet*

**Name** Prescott Milestone

**Ownership**      *Public* X      *Private*

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

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| statue                   | monument        |
| bust                     | milestone X     |
| group composition        | marker          |
| religious shrine         | boundary marker |
| other ( <i>specify</i> ) |                 |

**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



**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

