

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

STATUE (?) MONUMENT
BUST FOUNTAIN
X MARKER MILESTONE
RELIGIOUS SHRINE BOUNDARY MARKER
GROUP COMPOSITION

Town Northampton

Street Southside Prince Street

Name "1878" Stone

Original Owner Comm. of Mass.

Present Owner Comm. of Mass.

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

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Agriculture | Commerce/Industry |
| Architecture | Science/Invention |
| Art/Sculpture | Travel/Communication |
| Education | Military Affairs |
| Literature | Indians |
| Music | Development of Town/City |
| Government | Religion/Philosophy |

Date Constructed 1878

Date Dedicated _____

Source of Date inscription on stone

Designer or Sculptor _____

Individual or group responsible for monument if other than owner _____

Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered _____
ment to area: Great Moderate None _____

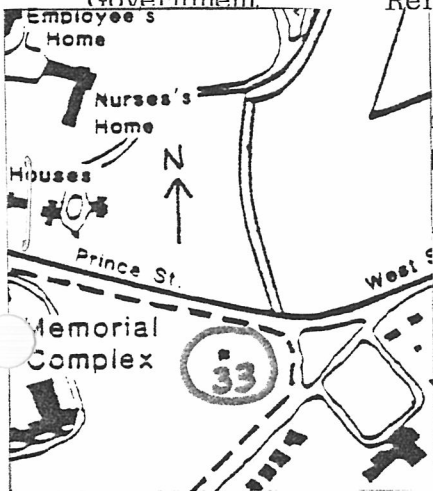
l by: _____

TION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other _____

o upright boulder _____

n monument: _____

"1878"



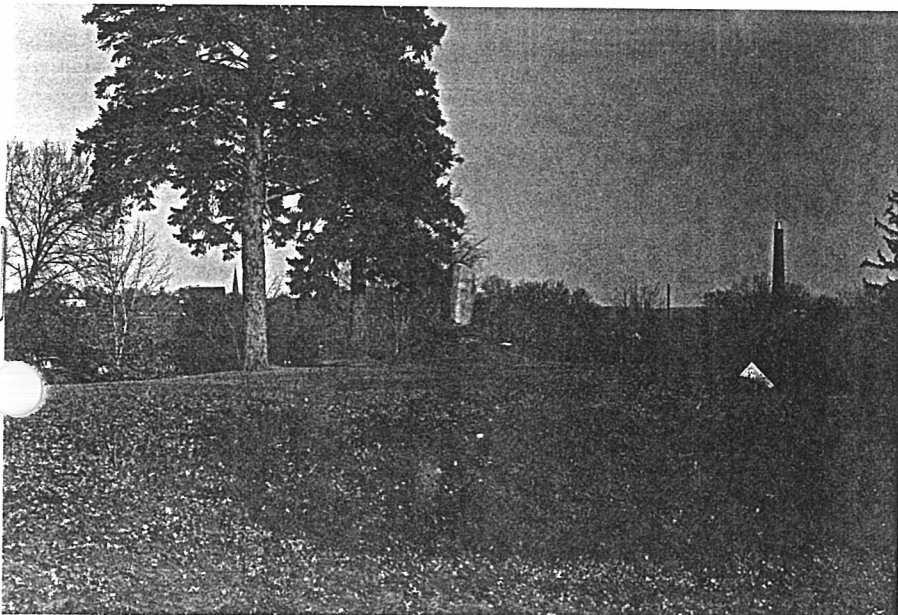
DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material fieldstone

Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other _____

Setting (surroundings) _____

Size (approximate) 6' high



r Ed Lonergan

Northampton Historical Commission
(Name of Organization)

Date Received Feb. 1981

monument has been moved, indicate the location on the reverse side.
ibe the monument on the reverse side.

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

An upright, irregularly shaped, granite boulder, 6' high and about 2½' around is mounted on two, 8" thick, 3' square brownstone slabs which in turn rest on a 12" base of mortared fieldstone, 2½' square.

The above rises from a low, circular mound, which is not a natural formation, and is atop a small finger of land extending easterly from the southeastern side of Hospital Hill.

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 curious "monument" has elicited much speculation as to its meaning. The "story" most often connected with it is the 1806 execution of Dailey and Halligan. At that time the gallows was located on the plain west of the Mill River, and served its purposes for Hampshire County.

Dominic Dailey and James Halligan were young itinerant Irishmen from Boston, and were accused of the murder of a farmer in Wilbraham. After a speedy trial and verdict of guilty, the prisoners sought the consolation of their faith. As there were no Catholic clergyman in Western Massachusetts at that time, their appeal was sent to Father Cheverus in Boston. Fr. Cheverus was the assistant in a parish that included all of New England.

Fr. Cheverus needed the plea and came to Northampton. The first Mass. celebrated in Northampton took place in the prisoners' jail cell. The execution was a public ceremony, attracting an estimated 15,000 people (this at a time when the town population was less than 2500). Although Fr. Cheverus had first been met with great prejudice, his demeanor and oratory piqued the interest of the town people. They listened to his sermons and asked him to remain longer. He remained for a short while before returning to Boston. Later he returned to his native France and was named the archbishop of Bordeaux.

Some years after the execution took place a native born man confessed to the murder.

Nothing has been found, however, to connect these events to the stone. In 1878 the state owned this piece of land and the annual report covering this period states that "the irregular and unsightly grounds" on the southern side of Route 66 were graded, had an iron fence erected along the road line and a row of elm trees were planted on the Hospital premises. Perhaps this marker relates to these "beautifying" practices.

REFERENCES (Where was this information obtained? What books, records, etc.)

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Nov. 15, 1958 p.1

"The Hanging of Daley and Halligan", The Northampton Book, compiled and edited by the Tercentery History Committee, Northampton, 1954.

History of Northampton Massachusetts from its Settlement in 1654,
James Russell Trumbull, Northampton, 1902

Annual Reports: 1878, 1879 - Forbes Library