

PH0281697

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 24 1975  
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Angle Tree Stone  
AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER W of North Attleborough High St.  
off Peck Rd, Plainville; off High St., North Attleboro  
CITY, TOWN Plainville and North Attleborough  
STATE Massachusetts  
VICINITY OF 10th  
CODE 025  
COUNTY Norfolk/Bristol CODE 021/005  
*(also in Norfolk Co.)*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>marker</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Town of Plainville; Town of No. Attleboro  
STREET & NUMBER multiple  
CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Chapter 37, Acts of 1790  
STREET & NUMBER State House  
CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth  
DATE 1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts CODE 02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Angle Tree Stone is situated in a small clearing in a wooded area which is surrounded by agricultural land. There are no roads in the immediate vicinity; the Stone is reached by a narrow right of way through the fields. It was erected in 1790 to mark the place where a tree had stood which identified the place where the boundary between the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth colonies changed direction.

The Angle Tree Stone is a slate shaft fourteen feet high, two feet wide and four inches thick. A circle carved into the top of the shaft is the only ornamental feature. The face of the north side of the circle has "Massachusetts Colony" inscribed on it; "Plymouth Colony" is inscribed on the south side.

The following inscription is cut into both faces of the shaft: "This monument, erected by order of the government to perpetuate the place on which the late station or angle tree formerly stood. The commissioners appointed by the old colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts to run out and establish this line in 1664 were Robert Studson, Constant Southworth, Josias Winslow, Jos. Fisher, Roger Clapp and Eleazer Lusher. They began this work on the 10th day of May, the same year, and marked a tree then standing on this spot, it being 3 miles south of the southern most part of the Charles River. Lemuel Kollok, Esq. was appointed agent to cause this monument to be erected. By an order of the General Court the Selectmen of the towns of Wrentham and Attleborough were present viz: Samuel Fisher, John Whiting, Nathan Hawes, Nathan Comstock and Nathaniel Ware, Esquires of Wrentham. From this stone the line runs due west the extent of the Commonwealth. Done at Wrentham the 29th day of Nov. 1790, by Samuel Fisher and Son."

The stone has begun to deteriorate through exposure to the weather and because of vandalism. The slate has begun to spall at the edges, and graffiti has been scrawled across the surface. An iron railing was erected around the Angle Tree Stone to try to protect it from vandals and souvenir hunters. The fact that the stone is isolated protects it to a certain extent from malicious damage because it is so hard to find, but its isolation also means that it is difficult to police.

Potential plans for the Angle Tree Stone include the development of a small park around the stone, with interpretive materials available for educational purposes.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) early boundary marker
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Angle Tree Stone marks a significant site in Massachusetts, and has gained, through its antiquity, significance in its own right as a monument.

The Stone is located on the boundary between the old Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony established by the land grant given to the Massachusetts Bay Company by Charles I in 1628. The southern boundary of the Company's domain was designated as three miles south of the southern end of the Charles River. As the inscription on the stone states, Robert Studson, Constant Southworth, Josias Winslow, Jos. Fisher, Roger Clapp and Eleazer Lusher were appointed as commissioners in 1664 to survey the boundary between the Massachusetts and Plymouth colonies. These commissioners marked a tree where the stone now stands, to identify the place three miles south of the southern end of the Charles River where the boundary changed direction from south west to due west, and runs into the Rhode Island border.

The General Court of Massachusetts, in Chapter 37 of the Resolves of 1790, directed "that a stone monument be Erected on the Southerly line of the Old Colony of Massachusetts in the Place where the Later Station or Angel (sic) Tree formerly stood." and further resolved that "Lemuel Kollock Esq; be a Committee to cause the said Monument to be erected."

The line which was surved by the commissioners in 1664 now marks the boundary between Norfolk County and Plymouth and Bristol Counties. The location of the Angle Tree Stone is easily identified on any map which shows this boundary, because it is located at the only angle and change of direction on the entire line.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

North Attleboro Tercentenary Book, 1628 to 1930, North Attleboro  
 Plainville Town Reports  
 Resolves of 1790, Chapter 37, General Court of Massachusetts

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/4 acre *UTM OK - an.*

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>304090</u>	<u>4650620</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	Norfolk	CODE	021
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	Bristol	CODE	005

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Georgette Plante

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE October 16, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston

STATE Massachusetts 02108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amadon*

TITLE Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/17/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

DATE 1/1/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Ronald M. Greenberg*

DATE 12/30/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*

Property Angle Tree Stone

Norfolk / Bristol

State Mass.

Working Number 10.24.75.1899

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

unusual -

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
10.29.75

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
W.R. Luce  
12/1/75

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
Hwyan L 12/2/75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
12-3-75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

accept  
Hung  
12-5-75

**KEEPER**

Accept  
Greenberg  
12/30/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JAN 1 1976

Federal Register Entry 3-2-76

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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RECEIVED OCT 24 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Angle Tree Stone

AND/OR COMMON

same

### 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Plainville,  
North Attleboro

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Norfolk,  
Bristol

STATE MA

### 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Terry Martin

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Plainville Historical Commission

COUNTIES

### 4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

looking north at the south elevation of the stone

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Angle Tree Stone

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Plainville,  
North Attleboro

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Norfolk,  
Bristol STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE U.S.G.S. Attleboro quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

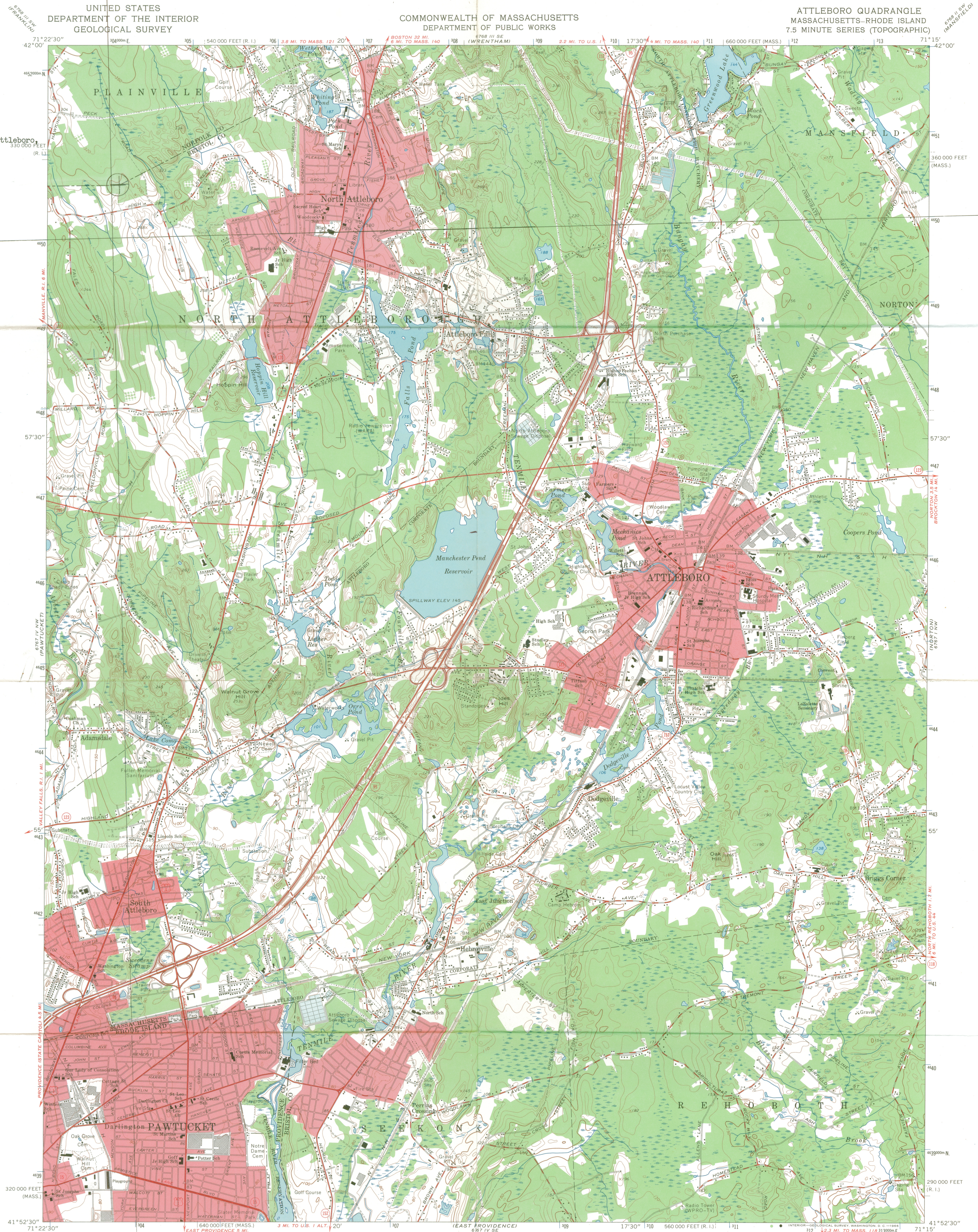
DATE 1964

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

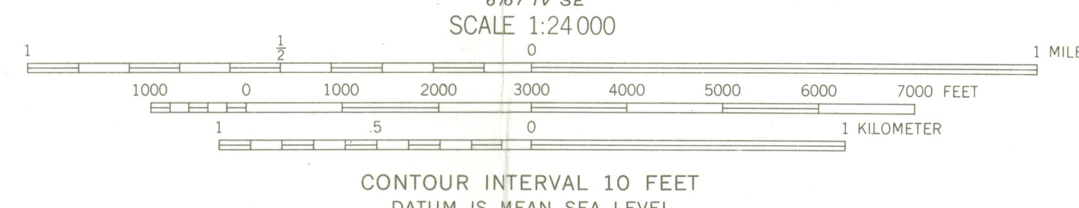
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Plainville, North Attleboro,  
Angle Tree Stone  
UTM reference:  
19/304090/4650620



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1938-1939  
Revised 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



ATTLEBORO, MASS.—R  
N4152.5—W7115.7.5  
1964  
AMS 6767 IV NE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JAN 1 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Angle Tree Stone	Norfolk and Bristol Counties
Red Brick School	Franklin Norfolk County
Bigelow, Dr. Henry Jacob, House	Newton (Village of Oak Hill) Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler  
Hon. Joseph D. Early  
Hon. Robert F. Drinan

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PR MMott/je 1/20/76

# Angle Tree Stone 'Historic Place'

PLAINVILLE – The Plainville Historical Commission has reported that the Angle Tree Stone has been accepted by the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Confirmation of the listing was received Thursday in a letter from both Paul Guzzi, secretary of the Commonwealth, and Elizabeth Reed Amadon, state historic preservation officer.

All historical areas in the National Park System, together with those properties eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks, are of national significance and thus qualify automatically for the National Register.

Properties of state or local significance are nominated by a state liaison officer appointed by

the governor and are placed on the Register on approval by the National Park Service. It was through the efforts of the Plainville Historical Commission that the Angle Tree Stone was nominated and then accepted for this honor.

## **AUCTION**

**Sat., Feb. 14 - 10 A.M.**

**at the VFW Hall**

**Eastside Road, Wrentham**

Antique and classic furniture, tables, chairs, pine commode, maple twin bedroom set, braided rugs, glassware, china, many other household items.

**AUCTIONEER**

**DICK BERGMAN**

**384-3629**

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on Federal register: Angle Tree Stone ② OTHER NAMES: (also in Norfolk County) ③ date of entry: 1-1-76 ④ county code: 005

⑤ LOCATION street & number W of North Attleborough off High St. (also city/town North Attleborough vicinity of North Attleborough state MA county Bristol ⑥ NPS REGION: Northatlantic

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name) State/multiple municipal. ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: Shpo staff

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 10 ⑫ SOURCE OF NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO ⑮ ACREAGE less than .25  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  fair  unexcavated  excavated

⑰ features:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO ⑳ SAVED?  YES  NO ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ENGINEERING-11  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS/GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LITERATURE-17  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30  TRANSPORTATION-25  ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20

㉓ FUNCTIONS WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Boundary Marker ㉔ DATES of initial construction: 1790 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s): n/a ㉗ architect: ㉘ master builder: ㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect/garden designer: ㉛ interior decorator: ㉜ artist: ㉝ artisan: ㉞ builder/contractor:

㉟ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP ✓ Slate shaft; 14' high, 2' wide, 4" thick; with inscription that memorializes the 1664 survey establishing the boundary between the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies; identifies the location of the tree that marked the only angle and change of direction along the entire boundary line.