

Report of the Town Perambulator: Appendix I

Status of granite roadstones at town boundary crossings around Princeton

Submitted March 23, 2015 to the Princeton Select Board by Brian Keevan, Town Perambulator

As promised in the introduction to the Town Boundary Stone report submitted December 2013, a full assessment of the original granite roadside waymarks has been completed. I use the term 'original', as I assume that these stones were originally erected coincident with the cornerstone monuments circa 1830. However, I have yet to research town records or other compiled sources that might help to complete our understanding.

There are 20 roads that either cross or terminate at a town boundary line, for a total of 24 crossings.

- Only 8 crossings still have a standing granite roadstone in its (presumably) original location.
- 3 crossings have roadstones that are either broken but present, lying down, or leaning against something, but not set in their original locations.
- 9 crossings do not have a granite roadstone, merely a steel or concrete signpost. Either the roads were built too late, or were built early but later widened beyond the original limits so that the stone was lost, or no stone was set for some unknown reason, or the stone is simply lost.
- 2 (publicly drivable) crossings have no indication of any town line change at all, either steel sign or old roadstone.
- 2 crossings are within Leominster State Forest along Rocky Pond Road, one current and one historical. Neither has an existing roadstone. However, given the shape of cornerstone P-W3, I speculate that the original roadstone was re-purposed for this corner in 1870. The cornerstone L-P-W was placed immediately adjacent to Rocky Pond Road, so it is possible that the surveyors considered this stone sufficient to serve as a roadstone.

All of the 11 roadstones now located are alike in that they have only a P carved on the Princeton side, a letter for the adjoining town carved on the other side, and no other inscriptions. Most have old painted dates, at least on one side.

Table 1 summarizes my observations. The list of crossings begins in the southeast and proceeds counterclockwise around the town.

Immediately following Table 1 are photos of the 11 existing granite roadstones, both standing and otherwise. They are presented in the same order as in the table, one photo for each side of the stone. The stones were visited and photos taken in May and June, 2014.

Table A-1. Summary of Princeton town line road crossing monuments.

Road Name	Bordering Town	Stone in Place	Present but Non-standing	No Stone, only Steel Post	No Line Marker
Redemption Rock Trail, near Burpee Road	Sterling	X			
Redemption Roak Trail, Justice Brook	Sterling			X	
Leominster Road	Sterling	X			
Hobbs Road	Sterling	X			
Route 31	Westminster			X	
Rocky Pond Road (within Leominster State Forest)	Westminster (historical location, pre-1870)				X
Rocky Pond Road (within Leominster State Forest)	Leominster				X
Redemption Rock Trail	Westminster		X		
Mountain Road	Westminster			X	
Westminster Road	Westminster			X	
Greene Road	Hubbardston	X			
Gates Road	Hubbardston	X			
Old Colony Road, near new footbridge	Hubbardston				X
Old Colony Road, at Clark Road	Hubbardston			X	
Hubbardston Road	Hubbardston			X	
Bigelow Road	Rutland				X
Schoolhouse Road	Rutland	X			
Calamint Hill Road	Rutland		X		
Old Brooks Station Road	Rutland		X		
Brooks Station Road	Rutland			X	
Jefferson Road	Holden	X			
Worcester Road	Holden	X			
Coalkiln Road	Holden			X	
Sterling Road	Sterling			X	

Redemption Rock Road, Sterling line near Burpee Road, west side of road.

Sterling side. Legible date either 1968 or 1969; one other date illegible.



Princeton side. Legible dates are 1958 and 1977.



Leominster Road, Sterling line, north side of road.

Sterling side. No legible painted dates.



Princeton side. Legible painted dates are 1968 and 1948.



Hobbs Road at Sterling line, south side of road.

Sterling side. Legible painted dates are 1946 and 1968; other paint illegible.



Princeton side. No legible paint visible through lichens.



Redemption Rock Trail, Westminster line, west side of road.

Princeton side. No paint visible, stone uncovered from weeds adjacent to (behind) steel town line signpost.



Greene Road, Hubbardston line, east side of road.

Hubbardston side. Legible painted dates include 1948.



Princeton side. Painted date difficult to interpret.



Gates Road, Hubbardston line, east side of road.

Hubbardston side. Painted date 1953 or 1958.



Princeton side. Painted date possibly 1988, but likely is 1958/1968.



Schoolhouse Road, Rutland line, east side of road.

Rutland side. Legible painted dates include: 1943/48/53, 1958, 1968, 1973, 1993.



Princeton side. Legible dates are 1983/88, and 1993.



Calamint Hill Road, Rutland line, east side of road.

Stone is leaning against signpost, not set in ground, and facing the wrong direction.

Rutland side (currently facing north). Legible paint reads 1958/68, 1983, 1993.



Princeton side (currently facing south). Legible painted dates are 1958/68, 1983.



Old Brooks Station Road, north/west side of road.

Princeton side visible, stone lying near end of wall that forms town line with Rutland. Only legible date is 1948.



Jefferson Road, Holden line, east side of road.

Holden side. No paint visible.



Princeton side. No paint visible either. Stone partially subsumed with road sand.



Worcester Road, Holden line, east side of road.

Holden side. No painted years visible.



Princeton side. Legible painted dates are 1968 and 1998. Note that stone is located approximately 10 feet south of current town line signpost.

