

FORM C - OBJECT

Assessor's number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

38/117/1

Billerica

927

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)
 Chelmsford Veterans Memorial Park

Address or Location between 230 & 250 North Rd

Name
 Merrimac Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial stone

Ownership Public Private

Type of Object (check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> statue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bust | <input type="checkbox"/> milestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group composition | <input type="checkbox"/> marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious shrine | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boundary marker | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | |

Date of Construction 1997
 dedicated April 26, 1998

Source CVM Park records
 Lowell Sun, Apr. 27, 1998

Designer/Sculptor Adrian Luz

Materials granite

Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 38.26 acres

Setting lightly wooded, on very busy North Rd.
 Former police station on the south side, middle school on the north side beyond a small stream, which flows on the north side of the park. Across North Rd. is a condominium complex.

Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

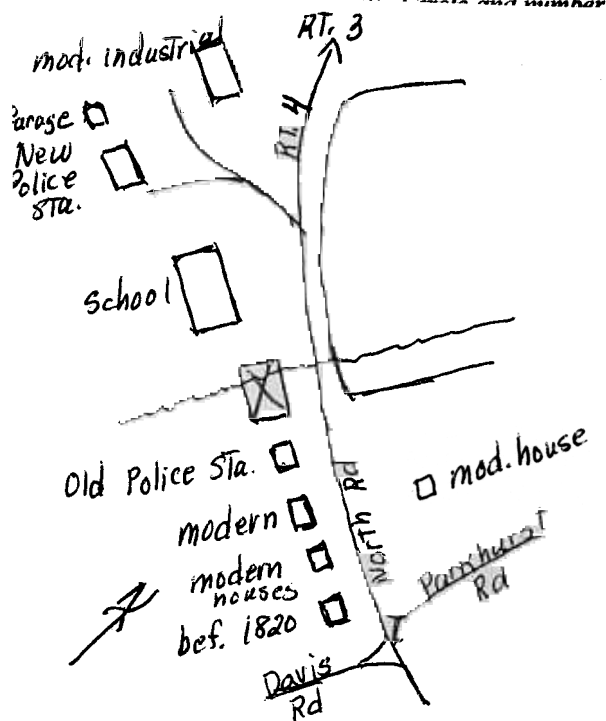
Date (month/year) Nov. 2003

Photograph



Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the object's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between object and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets (circle and number).



OBJECT FORM

DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

Describe the design features of the object, and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.

The monument dedicated to the memory of Vietnam Veterans is similar to many gravestones and other monuments in Chelmsford in shape. The stone is made of dark gray granite, and is 36½ inches wide and a little over 27½ high. A circular design is located on each side of the inscription at the top of the stone. One of these designs is like that on the POW – MIA monument. The base, also made of granite, measures 48½ by 14½ inches. The sides of both base and stone have a rough finish. The monument stands on a large cement pad to the right of the Desert Storm monument.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of the object, and how it relates to the development of the community

The Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans group was founded in 1981 and is dedicated to the recovery and accountability for POWs and MIAs from the Vietnam War. This monument was dedicated by them on April 27, 1998, acknowledging contributions made by Vietnam veterans both during and after the war. It was also a labor of love, for building it cost about \$1600, collected over 6 years. The only prerequisite for a Vietnam veteran's name be inscribed on the monument was that they be members of the Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans at the time of their death; they need not be of Chelmsford. The three names that appeared on the stone at the time of dedication were that of Elton Diles of Dracut, Donald Turner of Lowell, and James Cipolla of North Andover.

Elton Diles, an Air Force veteran, died in November 1989. Don Turner, of the Navy's Construction Battalion, or SeaBees, died in March 1986. Jim Cipolla, who served in the Army's 25th Infantry, died in 1991.

John Ogonowski, whose name was later added to the stone, was the pilot of American Airlines Flight No. 11 that crashed in to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11th, 2001. He was a resident of Dracut.

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION (if applicable).

IN MEMORY OF
MERRIMACK VALLEY
VIETNAM VETERANS
JIM CIPOLA
DON TURNER WILLIAM "BILLY" RICE ELTON DILES
RICHARD GRAZIANO JOHN OGWONOWSKI

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Lowell Sun, April 27, 1998, pg. 5

Chelmsford Veterans Memorial Park records

Recommended for listing in National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
CHELMSFORD MERRIM. VALLEY VIETNAM

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