

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Street Academy Street

STATUE MONUMENT
BUST FOUNTAIN
MARKER MILESTONE
RELIGIOUS SHRINE BOUNDARY MARKER
GROUP COMPOSITION

Name School for the Deaf marker

Original Owner Clarke School for the Deaf

Present Owner Town of Chelmsford

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

Date Constructed 1952

Date Dedicated October 20, 1952

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

Source of Date Chelmsford Newsweekly, 10/23/52

Designer or Sculptor _____

Individual or group responsible for monument if other than owner _____

CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered _____

IMPORTANCE of monument to area: Great Moderate None _____

MONUMENT endangered by: _____

LOCATION OF INSCRIPTION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other _____
bronze plaque on granite boulder

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION on monument: Harriet B. Rogers, assisted by Mary S. Byam, opened here in 1866 the Chelmsford School, the first in America to successfully teach lip-reading and speech to deaf children, In 1867 it was moved to Northampton as the Clarke School for the Deaf.

Erected by the Clarke School Alumni Association 1952

DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material _____

Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other bronze plaque

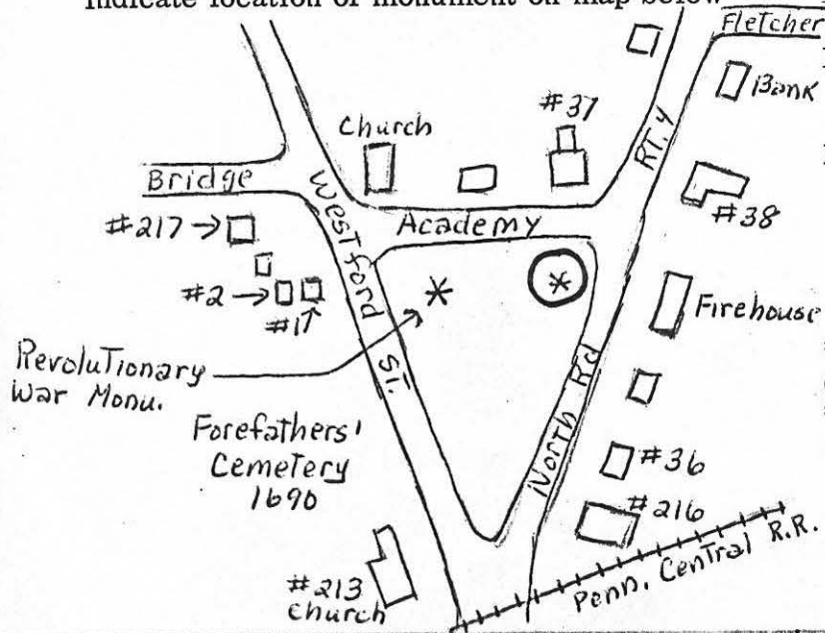
Setting (surroundings) On Town Common facing front door of the house

Size (approximate) plaque-22"x15"; boulder-32"highx36"widex14"deep

Indicate location of monument on map below Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission
(Name of Organization)

Photo # 10-11 Date Received _____



* If the monument has been moved, indicate the original location on the reverse side.
** Describe the monument on the reverse side.

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

In charge of the dedication was H. Latham Breunig, president of Clarke School Alumni Association. Speakers included: Mrs. Grace Coolidge, widow of Pres. Calvin Coolidge & former member of the faculty; George T. Pratt, principal of the school; Arnold Byam of Chelmsford, grandson of Miss Mary Byam, first ass't of the Chelmsford school; Theodore Emerson, selectman. John J. Byam, 8 year old great-grandson of Mary Byam, unveiled the memorial.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT. (Refer to the theme circled on front of form. What happened? Who was important? Comment)

See attached sheet

REFERENCE: (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Chelmsford Newsweekly, October 18 & 23, 1952
Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
DeLand, "Dumb No Longer"

Historical Importance of the Monument:

Chelmsford Newsweekly, October 18, 1952 - While the Clarke School this year is observing the 85th anniversary of its founding, its actual beginning was a humble one in the town of Chelmsford on June 1, 1866. When the school was established, Miss Harriet B. Rogers was principal and Mary S. Byam her assistant.

By the following spring, there were eight pupils enrolled in the school, although the number originally had been limited to seven, and only two were paying the full fee.

Helpful citizens such as Gardiner Green Hubbard who donated \$1000 and Mrs. Henry Lippitt, a Mr. Talbot, Francis W. Bird, S.D. Warren subscribed to keep the school functioning. It is said that the school owed its existence to Hubbard, who was of great assistance in many ways.

Mrs. Mary S. Lamson, a teacher of Laura Bridgman, also contributed her aid, the school, growing through struggling, becoming the nucleus for the Clarke School.

Officials of schools for the deaf in other states visited the Chelmsford school and while some branded the system a waste of time and money, others appreciated highly the value of the new system of instruction. Thus, the system of teaching by articulation and lip reading was introduced into other institutions.

The school, first held in the left hand, upper front room of Deacon Otis Adams' house, fronting on the common, proved successful and the deaf were taught to speak and articulate correctly and read from lips. The school later was moved to the lower floor of the academy, which adjoined it, and which later became the Baptist parsonage.

John Clarke of Northampton who became greatly interested in the noble work, announced he would give \$50,000 to found a school for the deaf in that town and, in 1867, the corporation was completed. Miss Rogers was elected unanimously as principal and a cordial invitation extended to Chelmsford pupils to enter the new school.

It was staid by a Mr. DeLand who wrote several books dealing with the teaching of the deaf, that Miss Rogers at first hesitated to close the little pioneer school. However, he said, she finally accepted, and left Chelmsford to formally open the Clarke school with 20 pupils on October 1, 1867, with Miss Mary S. Byam as her assistant.

One of the pupils at the Clarke school was Mabel, daughter of Gardiner Hubbard, who became the wife of Alexander Graham Bell. It is claimed that it was from Bell's experiments in visualizing the vibrations of speech in order to enable deaf children to read speech from graphic inflections and modulations of the speaker's words, that the invention of the telephone resulted.

Bell, in 1890, founded the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf and the organization has played an important part in the development of the work for the deaf and hard-of-hearing in this and other countries.

First School For Deaf ^{10/18/52} To Be Dedicated Saturday



ERNEST A. POULIOT

Members of the Clark School Alumni will be justly proud on Saturday afternoon as they dedicate a tablet marking the first school in America to successfully teach lip reading and speech to deaf children.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Pouliot of 189 Chelmsford St., Westlands section are members of the Clarke School Alumni and Mr. Pouliot has done a great deal of work on this dedication to make it a success.

A bronze plaque, 22 by 15 inches, will be placed on the Chelmsford Center Common to mark the site, across the street, where the first school for the deaf in this country was established. The site is the present home of Ralph W. Emerson, at 6 North road, and formerly was the homestead of Deacon Otis Adams.

Many notables in this specialized field will be in attendance at the ceremonies which are scheduled to commence at 2 p. m. H. Latham Breunig, of Indianapolis, Ind., president of the association, will have charge of the dedication exercises.

Among those expected to speak are Mrs. Grace Coolidge, widow of President Calvin Coolidge and a former member of the faculty at Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton; George T. Pratt, principle of Clarke school; Arnold A. Byam insurance executive of this town, grandson of Miss Mary S. Byam, the first assistant at The Chelmsford school, and Theodore W. Emerson, Chelmsford selectman.

John J. Byam, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold A. Byam, and great-grandson of Mary Byam, will unveil the memorial.

Comprising the committee in charge of this historic occasion, are Mrs. Wilfred Pouliot of Lowell, chairman; Wilfred Pouliot, Ernest A. Pouliot, of this town; Katherine S. Ducharme, Holyoke, one of the association's directors, and Franz L. Ascher of New York.

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CHELM

Margaret E. Mills
12 Westford St.,
Chelmsford, Mass.

NOV

The Street Newspaper in Massachusetts Is
VOL. X. No. 4 Chelmsford, Mass., Thursd

Dedication

Continued from Page 1
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New Teaching Method

Officials of schools for the deaf in other states visited the Chelmsford school and while some branded the system a waste of time and money, others appreciated highly the value of the new system of instruction. Thus, the system of teaching by articulation and lip reading was introduced into other institutions.

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Led To Telephone

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Outstanding among the members of the faculty over the years have been Miss Caroline A. Yale, LLD, LHD, second principal of the school; Bell, who instructed in visible speech; was a member of the board of corporators from 1898 until his death in 1922, and was fifth president of the school; Miss Frances Weston Gawith, head of the intermediate department from 1894 to 1919, and associate principal from 1917 to 1928; Miss Bessie Northrop Leonard, primary department teacher and third principal; Dr. Frank H. Reiter, director of the teacher education department and fourth principal; Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, president of the board of corporators succeeding Dr. William A. Neilson, and who, as Miss Grace Goodhue, taught in the intermediate department from 1902 until her marriage to Calvin Coolidge in 1905; and its present principal, George T. Pratt.

One of the outstanding contributions to the school which now consists of many buildings was the Coolidge endowment in 1929 which not only wiped out all indebtedness, but also made possible the establishment of the Clarence W. Barron research department.

In this department are three divisions—one to study the psychological problems relating to the

education of the deaf; another to study inheritance of deafness; and a third to continue experimental studies of the speech of the deaf.

Use of specially-prepared motion pictures and comparisons of the written language of deaf children with those of normal hearing youngsters are included in the intensive investigations made by the psychological division.

Comprehensive data collected by the division concerning the heredity of deafness includes family histories and audiograms and are expected to yield significant conclusions.

In the field of experimental phonetics, improvement of the speech of the deaf is the objective, school officials point out. Visual aids are used; speech tests given, and recordings are made so that year-to-year progress may be measured.

MRS. ALICE COTE PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Invites you to enjoy a more slender figure.

76 CANTON ST.

For Appointment
DIAL 3-0050

A Beautiful Oil Painting



The First Time
You Try

Just Follow The Numbers
with your

GRAFT MASTER OIL PAINTING SET

Just follow the numbers and behold,

Your own oil paintings begin to unfold.

You don't have to mix, you don't have to guess,

No experience needed, guaranteed success!

DEDICATION

10/18/52

PAGE NINE -- Chelmsford Newsweekly, Thursday, October 23, 1952.

In connection with the dedication of the tablet last Saturday on the common marking the site of the first successful oral school for the deaf in this country, the committee in charge of the affair requested that the following article turning the tablet over to the town be published:

"The Alumni association of the Clarke School for the Deaf, proceeding in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of that association, have enacted the following resolutions:

"Resolved, that a memorial be erected commemorating the establishment of the first successful oral school for the deaf in America, at Chelmsford, Mass. Mass.

"And further resolved, that said memorial consist of a bronze tablet bearing the words: 'Harriet B. Rogers, assisted by Mary

S. Byam, opened here in 1866 the Chelmsford school, the first in America to successfully teach lip-reading and speech to deaf children. In 1867 it was moved to Northampton as the Clarke School for the Deaf,' and affixed to a stone of suitable dimensions located on the Chelmsford Center Common opposite the Deacon Otis Adams house, which was the site of the original Chelmsford school for the deaf.

"Now then, it is the intention of the Clarke School Alumni association that this memorial shall become the property of the Town of Chelmsford, to be maintained for the public benefit and enjoyment in perpetuity hereafter, and by this document the Clarke School Alumni association transfers all right, title and interest in and to said memorial to the Town of Chelmsford as represented by the Board of Selectmen.

(signed)

H. Latham Breunig,

president

Helen G. Bergan, secretary."



TRANSFER TITLE OF TABLET---At the dedication of a Memorial commemorating the establishment of the first successful oral school for the deaf in America last Saturday at the Center Common, President H. Latham Breunig of the Clarke School for the Deaf is shown presenting the title of the Tablet to Theodore W. Emerson, chairman of the Board of Selectmen so that it is now the property of the Town of Chelmsford.



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ANNIVERSARY
1855-2005
BOWSER &
GILLMAN COURT, P.C.
ARCHITECTS AT L.L.C.

Clarke School for the Deaf Marker

5/28/2005 F. Merriam

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ERECTED BY
THE CLARKE SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
1952

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1922