

30-07
Sept. 4, 1968

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I got about as much satisfaction out of the job of marking the site of the first meeting house as anything else I have ever undertaken. Thank you for this opportunity.

Bob Lucey and myself started out early in the year to select a stone that would be fitting and proper to attach a bronze plaque to. Many stones were viewed and discounted for one reason or another. The real choice ones could not be made available to us. Our selection was a reddish brown boulder, common to Worthington, with a slanting smooth surface which would accomodate an 18" x 12" bronze plaque.

It has been handed down and generally understood that the first meeting house stood near where Howard and Leah Mollisons' house now stands. We do not dispute this, but in order to have some authentic reason for its location we read several histories, looked up deeds and made several inquiries as to just where the building stood. Our findings read as follows:

Near John Watts, Watts a few rods East of meeting house, Samuel Towers house a few rods West of meeting house, Meeting house near Lyman C. Grangers with cemetary in the rear, Abner Dwelly on East side of road which leads from Capt. Clarks to meeting house. Meeting House on Lot #30. (Lot #30 was on the north west corner of the intersection of Sam Hill Road and West Street)

As you can see this does not give a very definite location but by the Plaque reading "Near this spot was the first meeting house in Worthington, Mass. 1768 - 1792" we don't feel we can be too far wrong. The date of its erection presented another problem to us as some histories mention it being built as early as 1764. The Edgerton papers, which we believe to be the most authentic, as they have John Worthington's hand writing on them, mention viewing a location for a meeting house July 7, 1768. We believe that it very likely was started in the fall of 1768 and moved in 1792 near what is now the home of Col. & Mrs. Norman Hines.

In shopping around we were able to buy an 18" x 12" bronze plaque with single raised border with inscription in standard raised block style letters with concealed fasteners for \$108.00. The cost of attaching it to the boulder was \$24.00. The Highway Crew helped in setting the boulder and will assist further in the near future in grading in front of the boulder so that the area can be grassed over and kept mowed.

Kenneth Osgood.

Sorry that I can't be with you today.

Kenneth Osgood