

# The 21 Mile Stone

Form No.	902
Town	Sherborn
Address	North Main Street
Historic Name	The 21 Mile Stone
Ownership, 1981	Town of Sherborn
" Original	U.S. Government
Constructed	ca. 1790
Dedicated	Not applicable
Source	Anne C. Shaughnessy - <u>The History of Sherborn, 1974</u>
Designer	Not applicable
Individual or Group respons. for monument	Postmaster General - Benjamin Franklin
Condition	Fair, weathering
Importance of monu- ment to area	Moderate
Monument endangered by	Weather, automobile exhaust fumes
Location of inscription	Center of stone
Entire Inscription	"B 21" (distance by coach from Sherborn to Boston, 21 miles).
Foundation	None
Material	Stone
Setting	On west side of North Main Street opposite the Plain Cemetery.
Recorded	July 1981 by Edward W. Gordon



*The B21 Stone*

## DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT

The "21 mile" stone is a two foot tall stone which is partially embedded in the ground. Chiseled on its surface is "B 21", the distance via coach from Sherborn to Boston. *[Note: Actual measurements taken on May 1, 2004 are h=58,"w=33,"and d=25.]*

## HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT

**In the late 18th century postage rates were determined by the distance a letter or package had to be carried from settlement to settlement. The first Postmaster General of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, had milestones laid out along stage coach mail routes. Sherborn's was part of this ca. 1790 series of milestones.**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and REFERENCES**

- Anne C. Shaughnessy - The History of Sherborn, 1974