



Westford granite

This pedestal for the Minuteman statue at North Bridge in Concord was fabricated from one piece of Westford granite in 1875. The Concord Monument, the obelisk in the background, erected in 1836, came

from the same quarry. The minuteman statue itself is now in Boston, where a duplicate is being cast prior to the bicentennial celebration.

Minuteman statue rests on pedestal from Westford

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD -- Until the famed Minuteman statue at Concord's North Bridge returns to its familiar spot on the west bank of the Concord River, the lonely granite pedestal on which the bronze figure has stood for a hundred years, takes on added significance.

The seven-foot-high foundation for Daniel Chester French's figure of equal height was fabricated in one piece from a small outcropping of granite in south Westford, near the junction of Routes 225 and 27. The artist in stone was John Cole of the same town and he received the princely sum of \$975.

Quarried in one solid block, when finally completed it weighed nearly ten tons estimates Kennard Fletcher of the H. E. Fletcher Granite Co. It probably was delivered ten miles away on a stout wooden wagon hauled by many teams of oxen.

The little quarry from whence it came was hardly worked thereafter and has long been abandoned. It lies about 200 feet off Carlisle Road, on Route 225, practically on the Westford-Carlisle town line. Perhaps both towns can take credit for supplying the support to the popular statue.

AND FOR certain, Carlisle can take credit for another well-known statue in the North Bridge area. It is the so-called Concord Monument, an obelisk 25 feet high, erected earlier in 1836 on the opposite side of the bridge. It was cut in four pieces from the same quarry by Carlisle's James Warren Wilkins, fabricated and erected "principally by his own labor."

French's bronze likeness of a typical Minute-

man of 1775 — a young farmer, with musket in hand, leaving his plow to answer the alarm of the British march — is now in Boston where a duplicate is being cast. It will return to its post atop the solid hunk of Westford granite in time for the Patriot's Day celebrations.