



**WESTFORD COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES**  
... bicentennial, left, and 250th anniversary

# Westford's 250th anniversary plaques ready for purchase

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

**WESTFORD** — A colorful souvenir of Westford's 250th anniversary celebration, a ceramic plaque, is now ready for distribution.

It is a companion piece to the successful tile made for the Bicentennial in overall design, but is done in four, instead of three, colors on white.

The sketches, done by Ann Bleckstein of Screencraft in West Yarmouth, depict five popular scenes covering the 250 years of local history.

Starting with the old meetinghouse (1795) at the common, the next scene is the bell tower of the Abbot Worsted Company (1855) at Forge Village. The wording here is "From this bell tower the curfew rang at eventide for 101 years."

Chronologically comes the town seal, showing the town hall erected in the autumn of 1870 at a cost of \$8,000.

Fourth landmark is the J.V. Fletcher Library donated in 1895 by a former resident of that name who had made a small fortune in the Faneuil Hall market. The old Spanish cannon with a cone of iron balls, as they sit at the apex of the common in front of the library, depicts the Spanish War era.

The fifth landmark is the \$5 million Westford Academy complex, showing the facade

of the building on Patten Road. This was erected in 1972, the fourth building and the fourth location since the founding of the school in 1792. The current enrollment is approximately 1,000 pupils.

**WORDING ON** the plaque states that Westford was incorporated September 23, 1729, as the 28th town in Middlesex County and that it is now "noted for fruit, granite, foods, machinery and printing."

Screencraft has been making custom-designed plaques for 27 years, which are distributed all over the United States, also in Canada, England, Ireland and Mexico. Each tile is backed with cork imported from Portugal so that they may be used as hot plates on tables. In addition, a ring is on the back so the pla-

ques may be hung as a wall decoration.

The distribution of the tiles is limited to 1,000, and they are selling for \$4, with the proceeds going to the town museum, which is pressed for funds.

The historical commission is the sponsor. Should a reorder be required, the cost will advance, so early purchase is being suggested.

Distribution of the tiles is now being made through the local banks and organizations such as the library, the Roudenbush Community Center, League of Women Voters, Academy school store, Tadmuck Women's Club, Golden Ageds, Daughters of the American Revolution, junior choir of the First Church, and the Grange.