



Tablet marking the First Landing Place of the Pilgrims at Provincetown, November 11, 1620
The Map in "Mourt's Relation" shows that near this spot The Pilgrims first touched foot on American soil

This Tablet was erected by the Research Club of Provincetown in 1917

-- 1917 --

This marker has now been moved across the street on the land of Dr. Carl Murchison, owner of the Castle



In 1948, the marker was once more moved back to its first location (see picture at left) and now has a very appropriate setting. See article below.

- September 1948 -

October 2, 1947

Impressive Plaza Will Be Setting For Tablet Marking First Landing

Ralph Carpenter Will Supervise Construction Of Area Extending Out Onto Beach Near Breakwater In West End

Now that the Provincetown Inn is closed for the season and construction noises will disturb no one, work will be started shortly on the creation of an impressive and proper setting for the tablet marking the first landing place of the Pilgrims in the New World, on a site on the east side of the northern end of the long granite breakwater near the Inn, according to Ralph Carpenter, who has been appointed by the Selectmen a committee of one "to supervise, administer and maintain historical monuments and items which should be preserved, properly protected and displayed."

Mr. Carpenter has designed the setting for the tablet and the construction will be carried out under his direct supervision. Some of the money to meet the cost will come from cash remaining from the Ter-

centenary Celebration fund and the rest from private sources. No tax revenue will be used.

Almost Hidden

At present the tablet stands on the side of the hill on the Carl Murchison property, almost hidden from view by the dense foliage on each side. It is a small stone erected by the Research Club of Provincetown in 1917 and it bears a modest bronze plate with this inscription:—

First Landing Place
of the
Pilgrims, November 11, 1620 (O. S.)
The Map In Mourt's Relation Shows
That Near This Spot
The Pilgrims
First Touched Foot On
American Soil
This modest marker is Provincetown's equivalent of the vaunted

Plymouth Rock, but considerably more historically authentic.

The plan for a more adequate setting for a marker of this importance calls for the creation of a small plaza in the shape of a rhomboid, extending 17 feet from the street toward the water. The shore side of the plaza will be 50 feet in length but the area in which the tablet will be placed is to be 24 feet by 17 feet. This will be paved with broken flagstones and will be surrounded by a wrought-iron fence held in substantial brick piers. The whole will be substantially built and a heavy concrete sea wall will surround three sides of the area. At each side of the square will be 13-foot by 17-foot triangles in which Cape Cod wild roses will be planted. The tablet will be placed a bit seaward of the center of the square with ample space for those who stop to read its message.

Appropriate Quotations

Fastened to piers at each side of the tablet will be two bronze plaques, now being fashioned by Provincetown's master of bronze-casting, William Boogar. These will bear, appropriately enough, two passages from Felicia Dorothea Hemans' immortal "Landing of the

Pilgrim Fathers", the poetess and the poem that started New World history off with the right foot on the wrong spot.

On one plaque will be this inscription:—

"Aye, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod!"

On the other will be this inscription:—

"They have left unstained what
there they found—

Freedom to worship God."

Mr. Carpenter said yesterday that a more impressive marking of Provincetown's great historical event had long been a dream of his and he felt that its accomplishment was due both the visitor who comes here and the town which has so rich an heritage. He plans to start work on the plaza at once so that all construction will be completed before winter sets in.

The Advocate, Thursday, May 28, 1981

BUSHES. As part of its all-out campaign to beautify Provincetown, the regreening committee's most recent endeavor was to plant 15 juniper bushes around the plaque near the Provincetown Inn commemorating the Pilgrims' first landing here. Spearheaded by Barbara Rossmore, the regreening program has attracted the services of volunteers of all ages.