



VERMONT - NEW HAMPSHIRE - MASSACHUSETTS

DATE VISITED: July 6, 1993

ACCESS ROUTE: New Hampshire claims all of the Connecticut River along the VT - NH border so the tri-state point should be at the low-water mark, at the MA line. It is, but now it is under water because the water level was raised in the 1960s, when the height of a dam downstream in Turner's Falls, MA was raised. Set high on the bank, above the river, is a large granite monument inscribed, "ERECTED BY THE STATES OF MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND VERMONT, 1897". But, as shown by the picture below, there is indeed a tri-state marker in the river.

To reach this tri-point, take route 142, from either MA or VT to a point 0.15 mile S of the VT - MA line, then turn E, and go over a RR overpass. The road bends to the R toward East Northfield Station, but watch for a turn very sharp to the Left (almost 180°), just after the R turn. Take this sharp L, and drive N on a gravel road along the RR tracks to a bend in the road to the R (East), after crossing into VT, (no sign). Turn R into the first driveway, and ask permission from the Murray family to walk to the monument, which is E of their house at the top of the long sloping river bank. The actual tri-state "Mud Turtle" cannot be seen, even from close to the water, since it is now under water. See picture below. Anyone desiring more information on this interesting tri-point should contact Mr. R. P. Johnston, Maple Street, POB 159, Northfield, MA 01360.

Willis Parker, Paul Murray and Ernest Murray who uncovered the "Mud Turtle" with the aid of Robert Johnson, surveyor, in Oct. 1969. This marks the precise spot in the Connecticut River where New Hampshire & Vermont meet Massachusetts. The boundary is beneath river waters and was seen beneath the sandy river bottom when the river was lowered for work on the Turners Falls dam. High on the bank stands a dignified polished granite marker featuring the official location of the "Mud Turtle".

from: Rivertown Review, Northfield, Massachusetts, 1973

