## FORM B - Building

**Massachusetts Historical Commission Massachusetts Archives Building** 220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Map and Lot # **USGS Quad** Form Number Area(s)

117-25

Address

**Historic Name** 

**Exterior Material:** 

Foundation Split granite

Roof Asphalt shingle

Wall/Trim Vinyl clapboard

Outbuildings/secondary structure

433

Town Groton

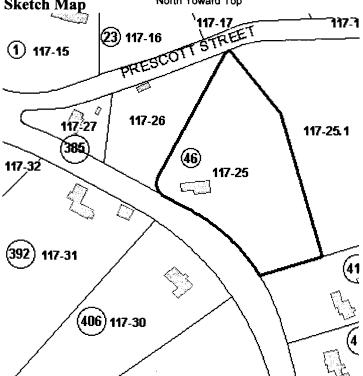
Place (neighborhood or village)

399 Boston Road

## Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Uses: Present Residential Original Residential **Date of Construction** c. 1850 Roll Negative(s) Source Estimate; Butler field notes Style/Form Victorian Eclectic North Toward Top Sketch Map Architect/Builder



Resided with vinyl, c. 1990

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

☐ Date Moved no ✓ yes

Acreage 1.97

Setting Rural, on Rt 119

**Organization Groton Historical Commission** 

Date (month/year) 12/07

Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.  * The house at 399 Boston Road is a 2 1/2-story, side-gabled, Victorian Eclectic style design of 5x2 bays with a 1-story ell of four bays at the west side elevation  * Decorative features include the frieze, molded cornice and gable returns  * Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash with plain trim while the center entry has a Victorian style hood with carved brackets  * Brick chimneys rise from the center of the main clock and from the ridge of the west side ell  * The house is well-maintained and occupies a site facing south toward Boston road; It is comparable in scale and form to the house at 270 Boston Road
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE  Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners /occupants played within the community.  Butler's field notes from 1828 indicate the house on this parcel, owned by Dan Parker, was 1 story, suggesting the current house was built later, perhaps around 1850. Mr. Parker's widow occupied the house in 1847, after which it was owned by a man named Priest, perhaps the builder of the current building. This may be Nathan Priest, born c. 1795 who farmed the property with his wife Mercy and 3 children. Andrew Robbins was the owner by 1875, a time when he owned several other properties in town including the houses at 142 Main Street (MHC #9) and 227 Boston Road (MHC #64). This multiple property ownership might explain the very high property valuation of \$15000 rendered in in the 1870 agricultural census schedules. Mr. Robbins was a farmer, justice of the peace in 1866 and a deputy sheriff in 1862. He married Matilda Spaulding in 1840 and had 2 children. By the time if the 1889 Walker atlas, the owner was M. F. Putnam, about whom little else is known. The farmers Frederick and Edna Martin lived here in 1930. The 1939 WPA map depicts the property as a semi-agricultural residence in pasture and timber.
BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES — continuation sheet
1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; 1939 WPA map;

\*\* All properties mentioned in bold type are individually inventoried resources

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement Form.

Butler's 1829 field notes; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; S.A.Green, chapter VII, p. 5; Vol ii, p. 32, 114, 303;

1930 Somes map; Resident directories; 1855, 1865 state census; 1888 Resident Directory;

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town Groton **Property Address** 

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard Massachusetts Archives Building Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.



399 Boston Road