

**FORM A - AREA**

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area  
115 14

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

**Town:** Groton

**Place:** Groton Center

**Photographs**  
**X See continuation sheet**

**Name of Area:** Country Day School of the Holy Union

**Current Use:** Educational/Religious

**Construction Dates or Period:** c. 1820-1957

**Overall Condition:** Fair-excellent

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** 7 modern buildings,  
1820 Federal style house and 1928 school building altered  
with vinyl siding;

**Acreage:** Approximately 17

**Recorded by:** Sanford Johnson

**Organization:** Groton Historical Commission

**Date (Month/Year):** 10/08

**Sketch Map**  
**X See continuation sheet**

## AREA FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community. See Continuation Sheet X*

#### Introduction

The campus of the Country Day School of the Holy Union contains two historic buildings, the Prescott House from c. 1820 and the 1928 School Building. These are set adjacent to modern school buildings and outbuildings and are set amid some surviving landscape elements from the period when the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women occupied the property from 1901 - c. 1945. The 17 acre parcel contains nine buildings, four of which appear to function as school buildings. The remainder appear to be administrative and outbuildings. Some ground now occupied by children's play equipment and parking was likely in use as instructional and ornamental gardens in earlier times.

#### Selected Descriptions

The Prescott House is a ridge-hipped, 5x4-bay, 2 1/2-story building with evidence of Federal style design elements, although the exterior has been re-sided in vinyl, details removed and other changes carried out. Additions of 2 ½ and 1 ½ stories project off the rear of the house. The first story of the façade is covered by a c. 1900 open flat-roofed porch supported by modern fluted posts clad in vinyl. Fenestration in the façade retains its original symmetry. The center entry retains its classical surround with pilasters and sidelights. Gabled dormers light the attic floor. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash that appear to be modern replacements in some cases. A second story entry in the center bay gives access to the roof of the porch.

The institutional scaled School Building and former Dormitory is a Colonial Revival style, wood frame design of 2 ½ stories with a gambrel roof over the central section and gabled bays on both ends. The plan of the gambrel and gabled section is seven by three bays. The northeast gabled end contains the main entry and serves as the principal elevation facing the school parking lot. A two-story flat-roofed ell of three by two bays projects to the southeast and creates an L-shaped plan. Distinctive elements include the massive corbelled brick chimneys rising from the junctions of the gambrel and gabled roof sections; the enclosed entry porch with a barrel roof and lunette above in the center of the façade; closed gable in the façade; and the secondary entry in the southeast elevation that is articulated by a pedimented entry hood with fanlight. Windows are typically 12/8 sash with plain trim. Siding is vinyl clapboard and foundation material is concrete. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The scale of the School Building is larger than the Prescott House and it constitutes the largest historic building in the complex. A modern two-story addition has been made to the southeast elevation.

Two modern school buildings exist northwest of and very close to the School Building. These are oriented parallel to the School Building, are also clad in vinyl and have gable roofs rising one and one-half and two and one-half stories. A third modern school building is one and one-half stories tall and is oriented perpendicular to the others. Modern single pane sash and minimal ornament characterize the exteriors. A pair of two-bay garages with pyramidal hipped roofs are connected and occupy a site north of the modern school buildings. The westerly of the garages appears to have been built in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, has wood 6/6 sash and is clad in wood clapboard. The easterly of the garages was built more recently of cinderblock.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Both have paired overhead doors. East of the garages is a one-story, side-gabled cinderblock building used as a dormitory from its construction in the 1950s until the 1980s that overlooks the school playground.

A modern Cape Cod house occupies a location near the entrance to the school. Labeled "Bethany House", the building is three by two bays with a center entry in the façade that is elevated above the driveway in order to accommodate a garage under either side of the main floor. Garages are accessed through the foundation wall below the façade. A full-width shed dormer exists on the rear slope of the roof. Windows in the façade are paired 4/4 sash flanked by 4/4 sidelights. Side elevations have 6/6 sash, all with minimal trim. The main entry has plain trim and is covered by a simple open entry hood. Access is via a set of brick stairs that wind one half story up from the ground between the two overhead garage doors.

**Landscape**

Landscape elements that survive from the Period of the Lowthorpe School include a brick wall, arched gateway, herringbone patio and walkway as well as some earthen circulation paths. The wall, laid in English bond, is approximately six feet high and has a pointed cap laid in brick. The brick arched gateway, named the Dawson Gate in honor of instructor Laura Dawson, with its barrel arch and pedimented top is offset from the center of the wall which is located between the Prescott House and the northerly modern school building. The arch gives onto a brick walkway toward the Prescott House and toward the easterly side of the school buildings. The walkway is approximately three feet wide and laid in a herringbone pattern. Concrete curbs line the walkway in some sections. Additional walkways with earthen surfaces exist between Main Street and the school buildings. A prominent circulation feature from the Lowthorpe Period was the Perennial Border or Long Border, now the site of a grass path between the Stations of the Cross oriented parallel to Main Street between the road and the 1928 dormitory building. The Dawson Dell is located behind (east of) the Prescott House and consists of a cobblestone niche with Virgin Mary statue looking onto a grass clearing. Ornamental plantings survive from the Lowthorpe Period and include a number of large trees across the campus and a hedge along the easterly walkway. Nearby is the site of a marble statue of a woman holding a harp which former students referred to as Mrs. Low, although it is not certain it is an image of her. Other trees and shrubs may have been planted during the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The semi-circular entrance drive may also have been laid out at that time. It is currently paved in asphalt and appears to have been substantially enlarged after the Lowthorpe Period for a parking lot and playground.

**Conclusion/Comparison**

Groton is the site of two other private schools, (college preparatory schools Lawrence Academy and Groton School) both of which are larger than Holy Union and also have significant architectural and landscape features. While the prep schools contain more numerous and ornate architectural resources, Holy Union remains an important part of the town's educational history for its association with early women's professional education and for the quality of the surviving buildings and landscape features from the Lowthorpe Period.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.****HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:**

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how the area relates to the historical development of the town. See Continuation Sheet X*

**Introduction**

The site of the Country Day School of the Holy Union at 14 Main Street was first occupied by the home of Col. Oliver Prescott, a Revolutionary War veteran and prominent local physician. His house, the predecessor to the existing Federal style residence visible from the corner of Old Ayer Road and Main Street, burned c. 1815. Dr. Prescott's grand niece, Miss Susan Prescott built the current house c. 1820 (MHC #20). Shortly afterward, she had a second building built for use as a girls' school which she operated until 1829 (This was later removed to its current location at 51 Hollis Street, MHC #31). Dr. Amos Farnsworth lived in the Susan Prescott House from 1832–c. 1847. Afterward, several Groton merchants had short term ownership of the house. Mrs. Edward Gilchrist Low founded the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture here and taught landscape architecture, gardening and horticulture to women from 1901 – c.1945 when the school was absorbed by the Rhode Island School of Design. Mrs. Low had a dormitory built for the school in 1928 which is now part of the current Country Day School campus. The house and additional buildings (mostly modern construction) were adapted for use as a convent in the 1940s, and later became the Country Day School of the Holy Union, a function the property continues to serve.

**Colonial Period 1675-1775**

By the time the town of Groton was established in 1655, Boston Road and Main Street were in existence as a trail route between the other frontier towns of Concord, Chelmsford and Lancaster. Trails were improved into roads during the mid to late 17th century, although the core of Groton's settlement occurred a half mile north of the site of 14 Main Street, near the intersection of the current Main and Hollis Streets. The current Old Ayer Road, forming the intersection with Main Street in front of the Prescott House, was laid out by the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and led south to the town's grist mill, the site of which is now part of the town of Harvard. Eighteenth century expansion of the village population and reconstruction in 1755 of the First Parish Church to its current site (one half mile south of the original church) caused residential development to move south of the original village. The house built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by Dr. Oliver Prescott, younger brother of Col William Prescott who commanded American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill, on the site marked the southern boundary of the village by that time.

**Federal Period 1775-1830**

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
Boston, MA 02125**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Destruction by fire of Dr. Prescott's house in 1815 left the parcel vacant for a short time before his grand niece Susan Prescott, a former Groton Academy (later Lawrence Academy) teacher, had the current Federal style residence constructed c. 1820. Shortly afterward, she had a second building built for use as a school for as many as 100 girls which she operated until 1829 when she married John Wright and moved to Lowell. The transcendentalist writer Margaret Fuller Ossoli was a student here from c. 1823-1825 and was instructed, Along with her classmates in orthography, poetry, geography, projection of maps, history, rhetoric, logic, philosophy, geometry, astronomy, chemistry, botany, French, needlework, drawing, music and dancing, morals and manners according to an 1824 news ad for the school reprinted in Dr. Green's history of the town. The subsequent owner may have been Reverend Charles Robinson according to Caleb Butler's field notes on Groton architecture from 1829-30. The house Mr. Butler describes at the current location is a two story building painted white with a single chimney. Historic photos of the house show tall brick chimneys marking the four corners of the main block, typical of the Federal style, although these are now gone.

**Early Industrial Period 1830-1870**

Dr. Amos Farnsworth moved here in 1832 after his retirement from practicing medicine in Boston. He was a native of Groton, veteran of the War of 1812, alumnus of the Harvard Medical School and friend of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Dr. Farnsworth's daughter, Mary E. Hall of Brookline, wrote in a letter from 1897, "I can only tell you that my father Dr. Amos Farnsworth kept at his house in Groton, Mass. during the winter probably of 1836-7, a negro slave whom he sent on to Canada in the spring - I knew not whence he came or where he went. My father, doubtless from motives of prudence, never talked about the methods or doings of the Underground RR and left no mention of it among his papers." Dr. Farnsworth was the president of the Anti-Slavery Convention in Worcester in 1840 which was organized by William Lloyd Garrison and whose activities were reported in his "Liberator" newspaper. By 1847, the owner was A. E. Hildreth who is listed in the 1855 census as a merchant.

**Late Industrial Period 1870-1915**

By 1875, according to the Beers atlas for Middlesex County, the owner was J. B. Sanderson, about whom little is known. The 1889 Walker atlas depicts Parker Fletcher as the owner of the property and tax records confirm that he owned the former Sanderson house. The 1888 resident directory lists Mr. Fletcher as a farmer. Dr. Green notes that in 1893, the house was in use as an inn, and that Mr. Fletcher sold ice that he cut from Cadys Pond near Boston Road east of the center. Mr. Fletcher also owned the house at 127 Whitman Road (See MHC #160) and the former garrison house on Lovers Lane (now demolished, MHC #159).

In 1901, Mrs. Edward Gilchrist Low (nee Judith Eleanor Motley), a native of Groton born in 1842, founded the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture here and taught gardening, landscape design, horticulture, botany, drafting, surveying and other related subjects to women. She was either the granddaughter or great granddaughter of Benjamin Bussey who donated land to Harvard University for the Arnold Arboretum in West

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
Boston, MA 02125**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Roxbury. Mrs. Low spent time in her youth at the Bussey Institute (on the grounds of the arboretum) where agriculture, gardening, and botany were taught, possibly inspiring her to create her own similar educational institution for women. Mrs. Low is referred to as a well-traveled and broad minded Grande Dame in the March, 1931 Garden Club of America Bulletin, in an article by Kate L. Brewster. The suggestion of a high level of social status may have had a bearing on the clientele and student body. Endorsements by landscape professionals such as horticulturist and garden designer Ellen Shipman had much to do with elevating the status of the school.

Establishment of the school was proposed by Mrs. Low in a flyer or one-page brochure dated September 11, 1901 in which she states the instruction will be given in the subjects of "landscape gardening, elementary architecture, horticulture, botany and allied subjects". A second contact name on the flyer beside Mrs. Low was Archibald M. Howe, a lawyer with offices at 10 Tremont Street, Boston whose involvement with the school is unknown. Fees were to be \$500 per year. While classes did not begin in October 1901 as stated in the 1901 flyer, they were under way by September 15, 1902. A second flyer from 1902 indicates the house would be residence to a few students and instructors while other students would live in the village nearby. The Prescott House contained, at the beginning, dorm rooms, kitchen, greenhouses, drafting studios and library according to a Boston Evening Transcript article from 1940 reprinted in Jane Alison Knight's Cornell University Master's thesis from 1986. Fees were lowered to \$100 per year. The school campus consisted of 17 acres of meadow, orchards and gardens. This is presumably the same parcel that comprises the 16.63 acre campus of the Country Day School of the Holy Union today. Campus facilities during the Lowthorpe Period consisted of multiple gardens, greenhouses and the Administration Building (the Prescott House at 14 Main Street) which contained a drafting room. Requirements for admission included a high school diploma and familiarity with botany and drawing. According to Groton Historian Helen McCarthy Sawyer, the school was incorporated in 1909 and placed under direction of a board of directors. The founder, Mrs. Low, was the president of the board while Amy Cogswell served as principal and resident director. Patrons included Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard University, Professor Charles Sprague Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum and Professor James Sturgis Pray, Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard, among others. Instructors from 1911-1912 included Miss Laura Blanchard Dawson, Edna D. Stoddard, Miss Alderson, Carleton A. Shaw, Dr. Glover Morrill Allen and Paul R. Frost. Lecturers included Miss L. L. Hetzer, Miss A. F. Tripp, Miss Rose Standish Nichols and Loring Underwood. Annual events included the Garden Day and Fete when plants were sold to visitors to benefit the school. Founders' Day was held each June and coincided with graduation. According to Eleanor Martin, author of Vocations for the Trained Woman in 1914, The Lowthorpe School was, along with MIT and Cornell University, one of a small number of institutions offering such educational opportunities to women.

**Early Modern Period 1915-1945****Lowthorpe Campus**

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Understanding of Lowthorpe's campus layout during the Early Modern Period is based on a plan included in the 1942-44 school catalogs. Authorship of the campus plan is unattributed but it shows a great deal of detail. The Prescott House is listed as the Main House and appears in its current configuration including the brick terrace at the southeast side and the rear structural additions. Four tall brick chimneys, now removed, mark the corners of the main part of the house in contemporary photos. Also, a driveway is depicted leading from the house due west, to Main Street. This survives but is currently in disuse while the main entrance from the south serves as the access point for the school. The Terrace depicted on the campus plan includes the associated Dawson Gate and the brick wall. These are surviving elements from the Lowthorpe Period. The Perennial Border is the current site of the Stations of the Cross walking path while the Shrub Collection just off Main Street are covered in volunteer growth. The existing school building, designed by Little & Russell, was built as a dormitory and originally lacked the rectangular ell on the southeast which must have been built after the plan was drawn. The Green Garden on the plan is the same as the Dawson Dell and is now altered with modern plantings and a statue, possibly of the Virgin Mary.

Elements that no longer exist but are shown on the plan include the 1933 Drafting Room which presumably replaced drafting facilities in the Prescott House. This occupies part of the existing parking lot. The Greenhouse was located on the site of the modern cinderblock dormitory northeast of the Prescott House and east of the garages. The locations of the Herb Garden and Badminton Court are now occupied by the existing modern vinyl clad school buildings. The Vegetable and Reserve Gardens are now the site of the existing garage buildings.

It is worth noting that the gardens, particularly the Herb Garden (planted by students in 1938 in the form of an Elizabethan knot according to Jane Alison Knight), Vegetable Garden and an area east of the Perennial Border were laid out in a strict symmetrical and geometrical form. Although English garden design (the model for much of the instruction at Lowthorpe according to Agnes Selkirk Clark, author of a piece in the 1925 Garden Club of America Bulletin) frequently results in naturalistic plantings rather than square and rectangular boundaries for gardens, the English Cottage, Country Place and Edwardian styles of design provided for some symmetry given that they were influenced by Italian villa design precedents. Jenn Thomas (a researcher in landscape architecture who is responsible for much of the research on the campus during the Lowthorpe Period) notes in her 2008 University of Colorado at Denver research paper that the gardens were largely the result of student labor.

**Curriculum/Staff**

The Lowthorpe School curriculum was focused on instruction in residential design, as were most women's schools of landscape architecture at the time as this was considered appropriate realm for working or professional women early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century according to Jenn Thomas. According to Catharine Filene, writing in Careers for Women in 1920, schools offering training similar to Lowthorpe included Cornell University, The University of Illinois, Cambridge [Mass.] School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture for Women and The University of California. Filene notes that Lowthorpe was a source for "excellent training

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

in the knowledge and use of plant material". The course curriculum was changed in 1915 from two to three years, diplomas were awarded and the name changed to the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women (dropping the words Gardening and Horticulture from the title).

The resident directory for Groton in 1918 lists only Louise Hetzer as an instructor who boarded at the school. By 1929, the directory lists four additional women on the faculty and staff, all of whom boarded at the school. These included Isabelle W. Bower (matron), Mary L. Hall (secretary), Marion M. Meredith (horticulturist) and Rylla E. Saunier (instructor). Ms. Hetzer was listed in 1929 and the Dean of Horticulture. The school's director, Robert Sturtevant who also ran the landscape architecture program at Simmons College in Boston, is listed as a resident of Main Street, although no more specific location is given. Additional instructors not listed in directories, according to Jenn Thomas, included Elizabeth Greenleaf Patee, an MIT trained historian, designer and scientist and Henry Atherton Frost, later director of the Cambridge School of Domestic Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

The school's founder, Mrs. Edward Gilchrist Low, served as President of the Board of Directors by 1916, having ceded the position of Principal to Amy Cogswell. The Board of Directors in 1916 included such important designers, educators and patrons as J. Lovell Little, architect of the school dormitory, Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard University, Charles Sprague Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, H. S. Graves, Forester of the United States, William J. Slocum, President of Colorado College, among others. The tax valuations for 1923 list the school as tax exempt.

**Students and Student Life**

The numbers of students attending the school varied depending on the time period. The March, 1931 Garden Club of America Bulletin contains an article by Kate L. Brewster in which she states enrollment ranged from 12-15 in 1912, five to eight in 1919 and 30-40 in 1933. Ms. Brewster also notes (in something of a contradiction) that many students were middle aged while most were very young.

Knight states in her Cornell Master's thesis, *An Examination of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, Groton, Massachusetts, 1901-1945*, that in 1935, winter classes were held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under John Parker, Lowthorpe's director from 1934-1945 and an MIT alumnus. The location was in Boston at 491 Boylston Street and, given the distance to Groton, occasioned the seasonal closure of the distant rural campus. Groton historian Helen McCarthy Sawyer states that in the 1920s, the school had cows, chickens, pigs, horses and a coachman. The 1917 class had a baseball team called the Farmerettes who played on the Prescott Common.

**Architecture**

In 1928, Mrs. Low hired the architects Little & Russell (J. Lovell Little, 1871-1943 and Benjamin F. W. Russell) of 20 Newbury Street, Boston to design a Colonial Revival style dormitory which is now the largest



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main StreetMassachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
Boston, MA 02125**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

building on the Country Day School campus, although somewhat altered with synthetic siding, modern windows and structural additions. The architects' plans from August, 1928 indicate the building was divided into the main central six-bay, gambrel roofed block with east and west gabled pavilions of one bay expanding the plan. The principal elevation faced east and was a three-bay configuration of two and one half stories. The central door had a semi-circular entry hood with fanlight that still exists and serves as the main entrance. This is the façade now facing the asphalt parking lot. North and south side elevations each had six bays in the main block with pavilions of one bay on both the east and west ends. Quoins marked the corners of the main block at the transition to the pavilions. The north side had no entries while the south side was the location of two doorways, each with a pedimented hood and fanlight that matched the west entry. Roofing material was originally wood shingles and side walls were wood clapboards. These are now covered in asphalt and vinyl respectively. The two floors in the dormitory housed 28 students in a combination of single and double rooms. Little & Russell also built the Peterborough, NH Historical Society and the 1916 Peterborough Town House; the 1926 Colonial Revival style Fire Alarm building in Brookline and the Plymouth County Memorial Building in Plymouth, MA, in 1924-1925.

According to a 1916 *House Beautiful* magazine article, the northwest corner of the first floor of the Prescott House was the location of the school's drafting room. This was replaced by 1927, according to Knight, with the drafting room, indicated at #3 on the 1942 campus plan. This was formerly located in what is now the parking lot. Knight also states the greenhouse, built with money donated by the Garden Club of America, was built in 1933 at the location of the current garages and replaced an earlier greenhouse from the 1910s. The greenhouse was designed by the New York City greenhouse design firm of Hitchings and Company. Recitation rooms for lectures were scattered around the various buildings on campus according to the March, 1931 GCA bulletin.

**Modern Period 1945-2000**

Lowthorpe departed its Groton campus in 1945 when the school was absorbed by the Rhode Island School of Design and became known as the Lowthorpe Department of Landscape Architecture. Offers to merge were solicited from over a dozen institutions from across the country and RISD was the final choice. By that time, the school had trained approximately 300 women in landscape architecture, but would begin to accept men to the Rhode Island facility. Two hundred eighty one alumnae are known. Of these, approximately 60 are listed with professional accomplishments and biographical notes in the 1986 Cornell University Master's Thesis *An Examination of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, Groton, Massachusetts, 1901-1945* by Jane Alison Knight. Alumnae of Lowthorpe who contributed to the advancement of the profession included Jane Silverstein Reis (class of 1932) who practiced in Denver for more than 50 years; Elizabeth Lord ('29) and Edith Schryver ('23) who formed the Oregon firm of Lord and Schryver; and Gertrude Kuh ('17) who practiced many years in Chicago. Alumnae with Groton connections include Laura McTavish who was a 1930 graduate and practiced privately in Groton with Frances McLeod Blue, a 1937 graduate. Constance Wharton Smith was a 1948 alumna of the school (beginning her studies at age 48) and was responsible for designs at the Groton School and Groton Community Hospital among other locations, partly in partnership

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

with Eleanor Osborne Seikel, class of 1945. Mrs. Smith was involved in Lowthorpe's transition from the Groton Campus to the Rhode Island School of Design. Other instructors and students appear to have simply moved to Rhode Island to continue their affiliation with the school.

The house and outbuildings were turned to use as a convent, novitiate and Holy Union and Sacred Heart Country Day School in 1945. At its start, the school taught 15 children in grades k-3 and by 1955, there were eight grades and 180 children. The c. 1820 building formerly used as Miss Prescott's school was moved away to its current site at 51 Hollis Street (MHC #31) according to the Tercentenary Booklet, although the former Prescott residence remains.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Groton

Property Address  
14 Main Street

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

Area(s) Groton Center  
Form No.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

Beers, F. W. Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. New York: 1875. Available at the State Library Special Collections.

Boutwell, Francis Marion. "Old Highways and Landmarks of Groton, Massachusetts. Published in Groton, 1884. Available at the Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston and GPL.

Boutwell, Francis Marion. "People and Their Homes in Groton, Massachusetts in Olden Times" Published in Groton, 1890. Available at the Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston and GPL.

Brewster, Kate L. "Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture". *The Bulletin of the Garden Club of America*, 4th series, No. 14, (March, 1931).

Bureau of Vocational Information. Training in the Professions and Allied Occupations: Facilities Available to Women in the United States. 1924.

Butler, Caleb. History of the Town of Groton. Boston: T. R. Marvin, 1848. Narrative history of Groton including two maps of the town. Available at the Groton Public Library. Index written 1981 by members of the GHS.

Butler, Caleb. "Field-Book of the Roads and Boundaries of the Town of Groton as surveyed in the years 1828 and 1829 with the names of the householders, et c". Available at town hall.

Butler, Caleb, surveyor. A Plan of the Town of Groton in the County of Middlesex & Commonwealth of Massachusetts. From a survey made in the years 1829 and 1830 and delineated on a scale of 100 rods to an inch; in conformity to a Resolve of the Legislature of said Commonwealth passed March 1st, 1830. 1830. This map does not depict owners and was made shortly after the 1828-29 survey.

Butler, Caleb, surveyor. Map of the Town of Groton, Middlesex County, Mass. From a survey made in the years 1828 and 1829. Pendleton's Lithography, Boston, Mass. 1832. This map indicates owner names and was made some time after 1832 judging by the notations for roads in North Groton that were laid out in 1831 and in 1832.

Cambridge Buildings and Architects. Harvard Online Historical Reference Shelf.  
<http://hul.harvard.edu/huarc/refshelf/cba/abbreviations.html>

Clark, Agnes Selkirk. "Studying Landscape Architecture Under Ideal Conditions" *The Bulletin of the Garden Club of America*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, No. 2, (March, 1925).

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town****Property Address**

Groton

14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Filene, Catharine, Careers form Women. Houghton Mifflin Co., Pub. C. 1920

Frank, Douglas Alan. The History of Lawrence Academy at Groton 1792-1992. Lawrence Academy, Publisher, 1992.

Green, Samuel Abbott. Groton Historical Series. Groton, Massachusetts: 1877-1899. Narrative history of Groton. Available at the Groton Public Library and Ayer Library. Vol. II, p.396; Vol. III, p.14, 25-6, 196-7, 405

Green, Samuel Abbott. Epitaphs From the Old Burying Ground in Groton, Massachusetts. Little, Brown & Co. Boston: 1878. Available at GPL.

Groton Historical Society. Tercentenary Map of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts. Dana Somes, Author, 1930.

Groton Historical Society. Previous Research on MHC form #20.

Groton Property Tax Valuations. 1923.

Grover, Kathryn. Research on the UGRR contained in Massachusetts Historical Commission Underground Railroad Context Statement.

Hayward, J. Gazetteer of Massachusetts. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Otis Clapp, Pub. Boston: 1857.

"Historic Preservation in Groton: A Guide to Planning". Boston University Preservation Studies Program, 1988.

Hurd, Hamilton D. History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1890. Available at the local library.

Kimball, Richard B. "A Little Visit to Lowthorpe". *The House Beautiful*. March, 1916.

Knight, Jane Alison. *An Examination of the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, Groton, Massachusetts, 1901-1945*. Cornell University Master's Thesis. 1986.

Liberator Newspaper, October 16, 1840

Little and Russell. Architects' Plans for the Dormitory at the Lowthorpe School, Groton, MA , August, 1928

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, Gardening, and Horticulture for Women. Lowthorpe School, Groton, Massachusetts. [Catalogs]. Groton, Mass.: Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, Gardening, and Horticulture for Women. 1910-1917. Available at the Harvard University Library.

"Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture Groton, Massachusetts". Campus plan published as part of the 1942-44 school brochures. No delineator listed.

Lowthorpe School of landscape Architecture form Women. Proposal to establish the school in Groton in October, 1901. Available at the Harvard University Library. [The school was not actually opened until a year later]

Lowthorpe School of landscape Architecture form Women. Public announcement of the opening of the school in Groton in September, 1902. Available at the Harvard University Library.

Martin, Eleanor. Vocations for the Trained Woman. Longmans, Green and Co., New York, London, Bombay and Calcutta, 1914.

Massachusetts State Archives. Department of Public Safety. Division of Plans. Fire Safety Records. Index cards contain architect, construction date information for some public buildings. Available at the state archives.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Town of Groton*, 1980.

May, Virginia. Groton Houses. Published by the Groton Historical Society, 1978.

May, Virginia. A Plantation Called Petapawag. Published by the Groton Historical Society, 1976.

May, Virginia, Editor. "Tercenary, Groton, Massachusetts". Printed for the Tercenary Executive Committee, 1955.

Meek, Henry. Resident Directories. 1918, 1929. Available at the Massachusetts GPL.

New England Directory Company. The Ayer, Groton, Harvard and Littleton (Massachusetts) Directory 1918. Brighton, Mass. 1918.

Prescott, Oliver. Groton. Map, 1795. Depicts some roads and some features. Available at the state archives.

Sawyer, Helen McCarthy. People and Places of Groton and More People and Places of Groton. Sherwin-Dodge Printers and Publishers. Littleton, NH: 1986-1987. Available at the GPL. pp. 29-31, 40-41

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET****Town**  
Groton**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

Scott, Stanley. Lawrence Academy, Founded 1793 Groton, Massachusetts, 1942. Map. Published in The History of Lawrence Academy at Groton, 1792-1992. By Douglas Frank. 1992.

Tax Valuations, Town of Groton. 1865-1945. Available at the Town Hall.

Thomas, Jenn. "Raising Awareness of a Forgotten Space: Exploring the Historic Landscape Designation Process for the Lowthorpe Campus". Unpublished paper, University of Colorado, Denver, 2008.

Town of Groton. Annual Town Reports. 1857-1960. Available at the GPL.

Walker, George H. Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Boston: 1889. Available at the Massachusetts State Library, Special Collections.

Walling, H. F. Middlesex County. Map. 1856. Available in files of the local historical society.

☒ Recommended as a National Register Historic District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement Form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Town**  
Groton

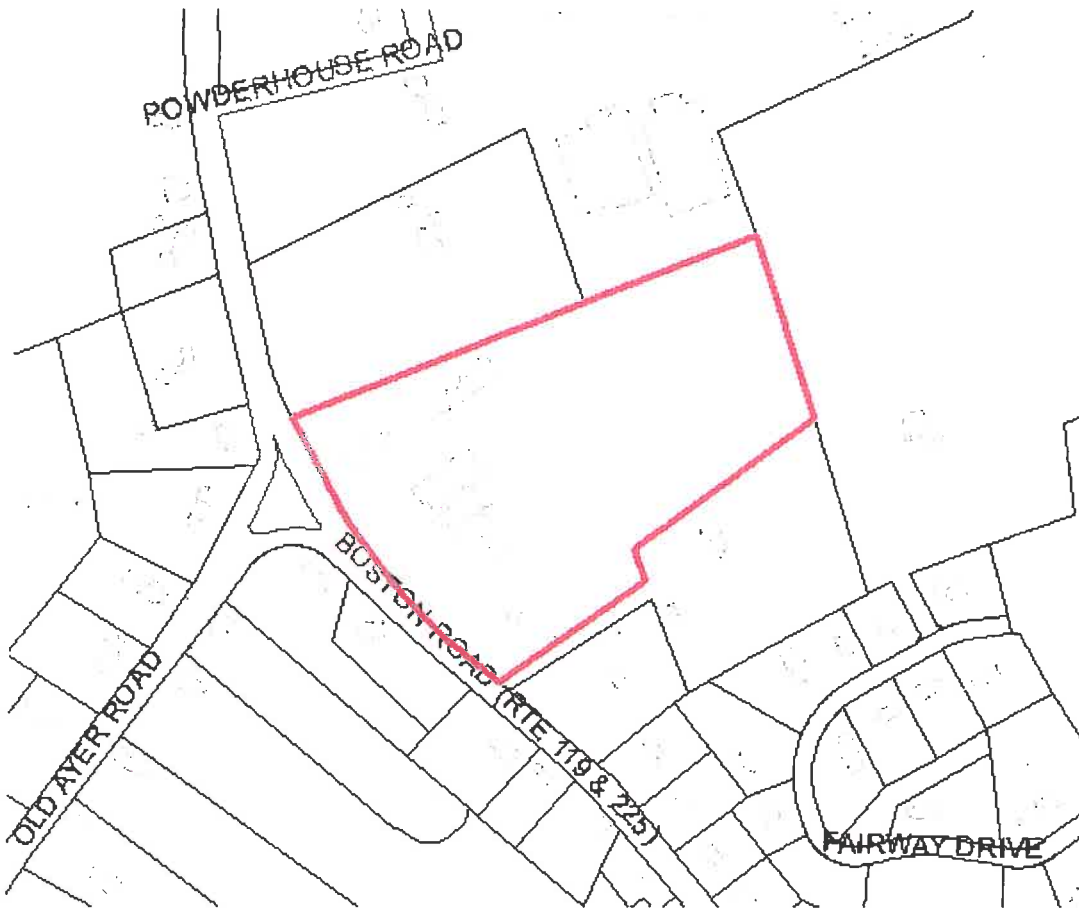
**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

**Sketch Map**

**North Toward Top**



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community  
Property Address

Groton  
14 Main Street

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
Form No

Country Day School of the Holy Union

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible

Eligible only in a historic district

☒ Contributing to a potential historic district

Potential historic district

Criteria:

A B ☒ C D

Criteria considerations:

A B C D E F G

Statement of significance by: Sanford Johnson

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The country Day School of the Holy Union at 14 Main Street in Groton, originally used as Miss Prescott's School for Girls c. 1820 and later as the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women from 1901-1945, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with historic trends such as early girls' private education including for the author Margaret Fuller and for its association with the initial school for training females in landscape architecture. The school is eligible under criterion C for its distinctive Federal and Colonial Revival style buildings mixed with modern architecture that forms the current country day school campus. The landscape bears elements of work by student in landscape architecture including brick walkways, a gateway and gardens. It is eligible as a district at the local level.



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Groton

Property Address  
14 Main Street

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

Area(s) Groton Center  
Form No.

## Photos



14 Main Street, Prescott House



14 Main Street, Prescott House entry detail

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Groton

Property Address  
14 Main Street

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

Area(s) Groton Center  
Form No.

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School Building, east elevation



14 Main Street, Holy Union School Building, west elevation

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, modern buildings



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, garage, modern building

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

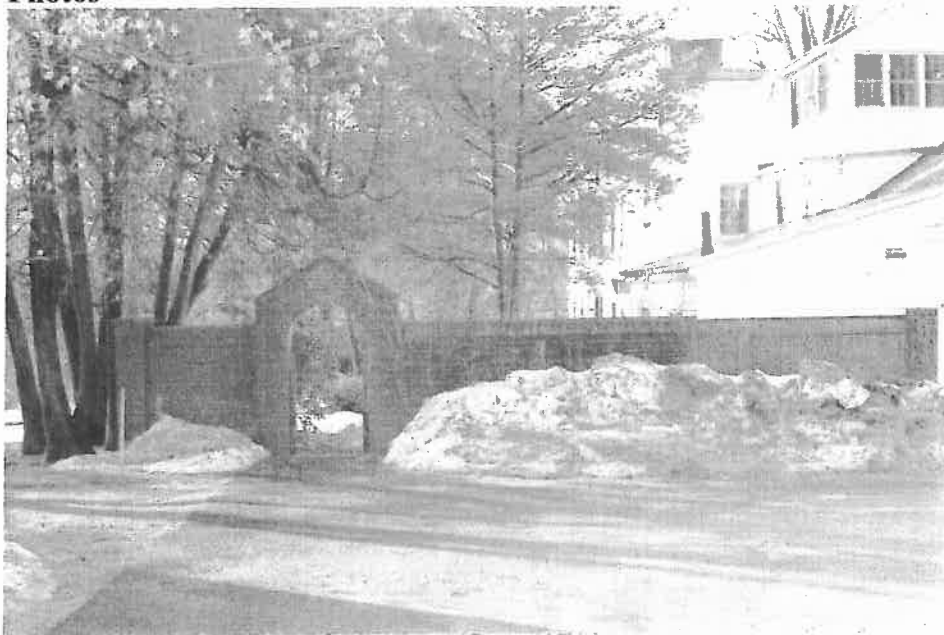
**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, brick walkway, Dawson Gate



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, circulation network

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, ornamental planting



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, Bethany House



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, entrance

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**  
14 Main Street

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

**Area(s)** Groton Center  
**Form No.**

## Photos



14 Main Street, Holy Union School, playground

### Country Day School of the Holy Union Area Data Sheet

| Map-Lot | MHC# | Street# | Address     | Historic Name        | Date    | Style/Form         | Uses: Present  |
|---------|------|---------|-------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| 115-2   | 592  | 14      | Main Street | Susan Prescott House | c. 1820 | Federal            | Administrative |
| 115-2   | 593  | 14      | Main Street | Dormitory            | 1928    | Colonial Revival   | Dormitory      |
| 115-2   | 594  | 14      | Main Street | School Buildings     | c. 1970 | No style           | Educational    |
| 115-2   | 595  | 14      | Main Street | Garage               | c. 1940 | No style           | Storage        |
| 115-2   | 596  | 14      | Main Street | Garage               | c. 1960 | No style           | Storage        |
| 115-2   | 597  | 14      | Main Street | Cinderblock Building | c. 1960 | Victorian Eclectic | Residential    |
| 115-2   | 598  | 14      | Main Street | Bethany House        | c. 1950 | Cape Cod           | Residential    |