

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113-73 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 321

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

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.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 31 Court Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1770, rebuilt 1870

Source May, "Houses", p. 29

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite, brick

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached 19th c. barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

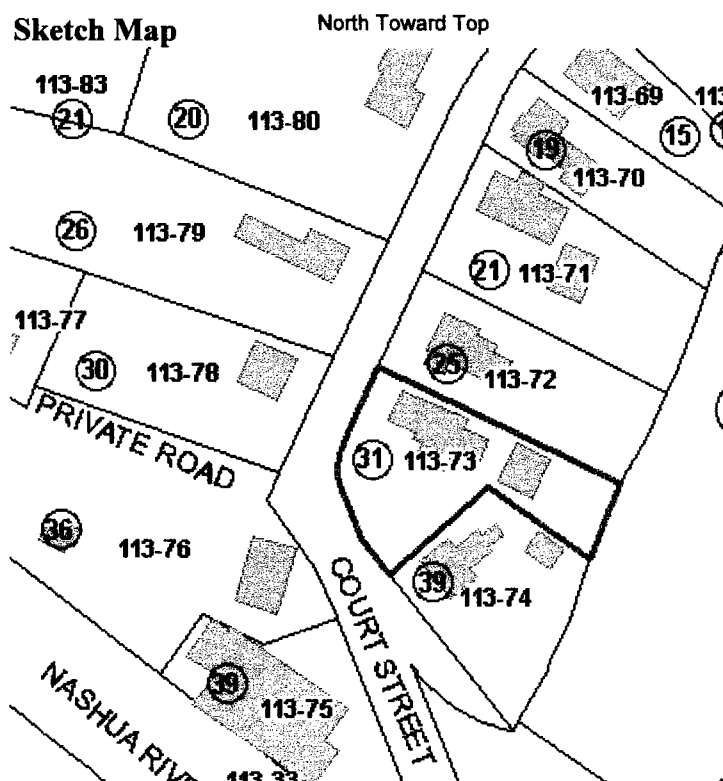
Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date c. 1870

Acreage .25

Setting Town Center

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

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

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * The Victorian Eclectic style residence at 31 Court Street is a front-gabled, 2 1/2-story form with an L-shaped plan; the main block is built on a 2x2-bay plan; the rear section is built on a 2x1-bay plan; a 3-sided bay window of 2 stories rises at the junction of the L-shaped plan
- * Ornament consists of the gable returns, corner boards and molded cornice
- * Windows are mainly 2/2 double-hung sash with beaded trim except for the attic window in the front gable which is a 4/4 configuration; sash in the rear section have plain trim
- * The side-hall entry has a Victorian style hood with cornice supported by carved brackets
- * A brick chimney with corbel occupies the center of the roof ridge in the main block
- * The detached 19th century barn in the rear yard has wood clapboard siding, a vehicle door and mow door in the northwest principal elevation as well as a 6/6 double hung sash in the gable peak; the southwest elevation is also lit by this type of sash
- * The scale of the house is larger than some others on Groton Center side streets and was built later than the neighbors to the north

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheets

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.

The 1847 map of Groton Center by Caleb Butler indicates the eastern end of Court Street was in place but it had not been built to this point. According to the 1856 Walling map of Middlesex County, the parcel appears to have been vacant. By 1875, the owner of the vacant lot was R. P. Joy, a resident of Groton Center at or near 214 Main Street (MHC #360). He was counted in the 1860 agricultural census as the owner of 9 acres and \$6000 in property which may have included this parcel as well as the one across the railroad to the west. The 1865 state census lists Richard P. Joy as a farmer born c. 1812. May states in "Houses" that the house was built before the Revolution and was moved here by Richard P. Joy around 1870 along with the house at 39 Court Street. They had formerly been located near the site of 176 Main Street and were remodeled during the late 1800s. By 1889, the occupant was Mrs. Gibson. The house in 1921 had been built to the current configuration with the detached barn in use as an auto house. The 1930 owners were Rose and G. T. Stevens who worked as a clerk.

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; Butler's 1829 field notes; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; Previous GHC Research; 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" p. 29;

**** 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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)

Form No.



31 Court Street



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