

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
234 13 162

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village)

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 248 Gay Road
Historic Name Blood-Gay House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential-agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1875
Source Federal census, ag schedules

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite, brick

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached modern shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

Historic rear ell demolished, c. 2004, replaced with modern rear addition; historic barn across Gay Road demolished c. 1990

Condition Excellent

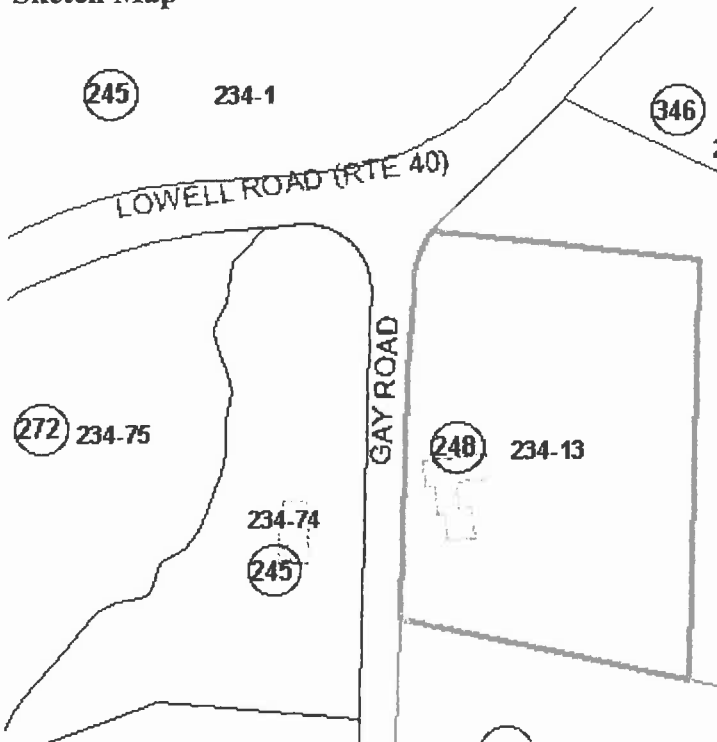
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2

Setting Rural

Sketch Map

North Toward Top



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/08

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 house at 248 Gay Road is a 2 1/2- story, 2x4-bay, front-gabled form with a historic 2-story ell attached to the south side and a modern ell of 2 stories attached to the rear (east) of the main block; the side hall entry hood with carved brackets and 1-story bay window are additional secondary masses
- * Decorative features include the wide frieze board, paneled corner pilasters, molded cornice with deep eaves and gable returns
- * Windows are mainly 2/2 double-hung sash with plain trim; windows in the bay are 1/1 examples
- * The house is well maintained and is of a scale typical for 19th century farmhouses in Groton

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 1828-1829 field notes by Groton map maker Caleb Butler indicate no one living at the site of 248 Gay Road although his 1832 map from these notes depicts a house with no owner name. Previous research by the GHC indicates the house was built c. 1830 for J. F. Blood. The 1847 and 1856 maps of Groton depict M. Lewis as the occupant of the house at this location, although it is not clear it was the same building. The 1875 Atlas shows J. F. Blood as the owner. Mr. Blood continued to live and work as a farmer here through 1889 as his name appears next to the building on the atlas from that year. The 1870 Federal census lists John F. Blood (This is John Frederick Blood, born 1832 according to Groton Vital Statistics) as the owner of a farm valued at \$2300, an average amount for a farm in Groton. By 1880, Mr., Blood's farm had increased significantly in value to \$6500, suggesting he built the house since the previous census was taken. On his 190 acre farm he kept 16 cows, swine and poultry. Mr. Blood sold 10,000 gallons of milk in 1880, the fourth highest total for a farmer in Groton in that year. Alice E. Gay, a granddaughter of Mr. Blood, was the owner with her husband Henry Gay (who died in 1928) from c. 1915 - c. 1970 according to the Dana Somes map of the town, resident directories and to previous GHC research. Mrs. Gay indicated the hill had been planted in crops and cleared to the top as are Gibbet and Angus Hills. Market garden crops and an orchard were planted here in 1939 according to the WPA map of Groton. The historic name of the property was Brown Loaf Hill Farm. The name of the drumlin for which the house was named appears in 17th century town records.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Resident directories, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map of Groton; 1875, 1889 Middlesex County atlases; census records; Previous GHC research; Federal census, 1870, 1880, agricultural schedules; Groton Vital Statistics; 1939 WPA map of Groton

**** 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.
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Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
248 Gay Road

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible X

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 Victorian Eclectic Style house at 248 Gay Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The 1875 Atlas shows J. F. Blood as the owner. Mr. Blood continued to live and work as a farmer here through 1889 as his name appears next to the building on the atlas from that year. The 1870 Federal census lists John F. Blood (This is John Frederick Blood, born 1832 according to Groton Vital Statistics) as the owner of a farm valued at \$2300, an average amount for a farm in Groton. By 1880, Mr., Blood's farm had increased significantly in value to \$6500, suggesting he built the house since the previous census was taken. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the cross gabled house's main block and its setting at the base of Brownloaf Hill make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

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Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



248 Gay Rd