FORM A - AREA

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard Massachusetts Archives Building Boston, MA 02125 Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

107, 219

Town: Groton

Place: Groton

Photographs

X See continuation sheet

Name of Area: Groton School

Current Use: Educational

Construction Dates or Period: c. 1790-2004

Overall Condition: Good-excellent

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Approximately 12 modern buildings at the core of the campus

Acreage: Approximately 436

Recorded by: Sanford Johnson

Organization: Groton Historical Commission

Date (Month/Year): 1/09

Sketch Map

X See continuation sheet

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 Groton School, founded in 1884 by Reverend Endicott Peabody, is located on Farmers Row, approximately one mile west of Groton Center and 35 miles west of Boston. Nearly a dozen historic academic and residential buildings constructed between 1884 and 1902 occupy the core of the campus with additional buildings somewhat afield of the "Circle" or campus center.

The main buildings include the English Revival style Brooks House, the initial building on campus that was built as a dormitory and classroom building in 1884; the Classical Revival style Schoolhouse from 1899; the Classical Revival style Hundred House built as a dormitory and headmaster's residence in 1891; the 1900 Gothic Revival style Chapel; the 1902 Classical Revival style Gymnasium now in use as the Dining Hall and the Classical Revival style Fives Courts from 1891 (Fives is a version of handball). Additional buildings of significance include the William Amory Gardner Residence and associated Pleasure Dome, the Infirmary (also called the Pest House), among others. Numerous faculty residences from the early to mid 20th century contribute to the overall character of the campus.

Prior to construction of Brooks House, the campus was sited and planned by Reverend Peabody with assistance of various members of the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape architecture firm including Frederick Law Olmsted himself, to take in views of the Nashua River valley (now obscured by trees) and Mount Wachusett to the west and the hills of New Hampshire to the north. The Circle, designed with input from the Olmsteds, anchors the main academic and dormitory buildings as well as the chapel, and forms the principal landscape feature of the school. Plantings, gardens and avenues radiate from the Circle. The history of the school is well documented in detail in numerous books and articles. This inventory form will focus on some major events and personalities in the school's history and on the highly significant campus and building designs.

Landscape Features

A great deal of the architectural significance of Groton School rests on the quality of the landscape design which centers on the Circle, a rounded or elliptical version of the traditional campus quadrangle. Located with respect to the views north and west, the Circle anchors the historic school buildings at its perimeter which face the center (meaning those on the east of the Circle face directly away from Farmers Row, MHC Area X). Embodiment of the American Romantic style of landscape design is cited by landscape design historian Faith J. Smith as a goal of Olmsted and of Reverend Peabody in the planning of the school so that existing natural features of the river and distant mountains would be emphasized rather than man-made terraces and gardens. In order to take full advantage of the views from the Circle, a driveway around the edge was laid out and continues to mark the perimeter. This was changed from crushed stone to asphalt paving in the 1950s. Plantings consisted of trees and shrubs located so that buildings, mountain and river views would be emphasized. Access to the river and campus boathouse is by way of a dirt path leading west around ¼ mile

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River, although sports activities also took place in the Circle and behind the Gymnasium and Brooks House just off the Circle. Access to the campus is via three main gates off Farmers Row located north, south and directly east of the Circle. Residences for faculty and modern school buildings such as the Campbell Performing Arts Center that expand the original campus are sited to the north and south of the school's core on Farmers Row and are collected into the campus by the fence made of granite posts and square red wood rails. The east side of Farmers Row contains additional residences, most from the early to mid 20th century, as well as the maintenance facilities for the physical plant that have construction dates from c. 1898-1970.

Selected Descriptions

Brooks House—(1884, Peabody and Stearns architects, additions, 1915, 1932)

Brooks House, the initial residential and academic building at Groton School, was built of brick as a two and one-half-story form with an eight-bay gabled block dominating the eastern end and a slightly taller hipped block of two bays at the west. Stylistic details on the English Revival design include segmental arched openings for the windows that have paired and tripartite sash; hipped porches over the entries at the junction of the hipped and gabled blocks and near the center of the gabled block; a gabled bell canopy with king post gable ornament and finial located at the level of the eave off center to the west; an open one-story hipped porch at the west elevation; four corbelled brick chimneys rise at irregular intervals along the roof ridge.

Additions to the original design occurred in 1915, 1932 and later in the 20th century when the floorplan was greatly enlarged to the north. Early additions included the c. 1890 shed dormer over the porch at the junction of the hipped and gabled blocks with a pavilion of half timbered construction below by c. 1915; a gable-roofed ell projecting from the rear or north of the east end that formed a modified L-shaped plan by c. 1932; a second addition to the north end of the floorplan c. 1984 that resulted in the existing modified U-shaped plan. Brooks house faces south onto the Circle, or campus center, and forms an integral part of the architectural ensemble that is Groton School.

Hundred House (1891, Peabody & Stearns, architects; Additions, 1894, 1928, 1929, 1909, 1932)

Hundred House, built in the Classical Revival style as a dormitory, Rector's residence and dining hall, is a large brick building with highly complex massing that results in a combination of six two- and three-story blocks joined to form an overly broad U-shaped plan that follows the arc of the Circle at its north side. The northwestern-most is a two-story, side gambrel form of three bays with a one-story hipped ell at the north side elevation. Gabled dormers with paired windows line the front slope of the gambrel roof and a stout brick chimney rises from the north side. Details include the modillions across the eaves and lunettes in the north side of the second story. The mass adjoining to the southeast is a larger two and one-half story, three-bay, side-gambrel form that also features three dormers on the front slope, the center example having a broken segmental arched top capped by a finial in the form of a pineapple over a clamshell cartouche. This contains

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the Headmaster's residence. Other details include the modillions at the eaves that match those on the northwestern block. The center entry is covered by an arched porch supported by Doric columns. Windows are paired double-hung 12/12 units in the dormers and in the façade except for the south bay of the façade which has a Palladian window in a one-story bay. A lower two-story side gabled hyphen with two-story bay in the south side connects two and one-half story block to the center of the Hundred House plan. The architectural mass at the center of the plan contains the school library and has a side-gabled form of two stories rising slightly above the hyphen. This was originally the dining hall. Access is via two stairways into flatroofed entry porches off projecting hipped pavilions at either end. Porches here are supported by Doric columns. The center of the façade between the pavilions is recessed while the entire seven-bay width is lined at the tops of the first and second stories with balustrades and modillions. South and east of the library is a three-bay, gable-roofed form of one story. The center of this mass has a broad three-sided bay with typical modillions, hipped roof and open cupola with pointed spire. The east elevation is attached to the final mass which most closely resembles the Headmaster's section of Hundred House with its three-bay, side-gambrel form and three prominent dormers, the center example of which has a broken segmental arched top. The modillions continue across the eaveline in this section. The rear or south of the plan is expanded by three perpendicular ells with gabled roofs of two stories. Additions include the extreme southeastern ell c. 1930 as well as others noted in work by landscape historian Faith Smith but not specified.

Schoolhouse (1899, Peabody & Stearns, Additions, 1923, 1932)

The Classical Revival style brick Schoolhouse has at its core a seven-bay, side-gabled form of one and one-half stories. Each side of the central block is flanked by a gabled entry porch supported by a combination of brick piers and Corinthian columns. The entries are located between the central block and matching ridge hipped blocks of two stories and four bays that expand the plan to the east and west. Secondary masses include the belvedere with gold dome, clock, ornamental urns, quoins and balustrade on a square base in the center of the gabled roof with two gabled and one central broken segmental arched dormer on the front slope below, hipped dormers over the two main entrances, eight tall brick chimneys spaced evenly along the various roof ridges and the low balustrade in front of the building divided at the entrances by piers surmounted by round finials. Windows are mainly double hung sash with multiple panes except for the Palladian examples in the first story of the east and west blocks. Details include the flat arches with keystones over the double hung sash and Gibbs surrounds beside, dentils and modillions across the eaveline, quoins at the corners of the east and west blocks. Additions to the building done in 1923 and 1933 are likely to be the rear ell at the northwest corner.

Chapel (1899-1900, Henry Vaughan, architect)

The Groton School Chapel stands out on the campus due to the fact that it is the only Gothic Revival style building on the Circle and because it is built of limestone rather than brick. The view from the front gabled Chapel is west toward the only segment of the periphery of the Circle not occupied by a school building. The façade is dominated on the north side by the square tower and its four corner spires with pinnacles and four

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intermediate spires and on the south by the richly ornamented Gothic arched window with tracery. Buttresses of English derivation that are bonded into the walls line the corners of the tower and of the main building. The side walls are capped by crenellations interrupted by eight spires that rise from the eaves and divide the elevations into bays lit by pointed arched colossal windows. The north side elevation is expanded by a flat roofed porch, also built of limestone with crenellations and corner tower. The recessed main entry has a series of engaged responds or colonnettes supporting Gothic arches of decreasing height. Niches are set into the wall at both sides. The floorplan is comprised of the nave flanked by aisles on both sides. Wood is used on the interior to form tracery screens in some arches, the principal roof structure and the choir. The school coat of arms over the door was designed in 1904 by Ralph Adams Cram according to the school archivist, Douglas Brown who also provided much additional information for this inventory form. The current chapel replaces one built in 1887 at the northwest corner of Farmers Row and Peabody Street and moved to 297 Main Street in 1904.

2nd Gymnasium, now Dining Hall (1902-03, Peabody & Stearns architects, P&S Addition 1931)

The brick Dining Hall, located on the east side of the Circle and south of the Chapel, was built in the Classical Revival style as the second Gymnasium in 1902, replacing an earlier gym, now demolished. The use was changed from athletics to dining in 1963-4 according to plans by architects Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. The deck hipped, five-by five-bay form has a nearly square plan of two stories. The principal elevation appears to be the south with its open, flat roofed center entry porch supported by Doric columns and surmounted by a balustrade. The first floor window openings are occupied by paired double hung multiple pane windows with flat arches above. Sills here form a continuous beltcourse across the lower section of the façade. The second story is lit by colossal compass windows set in concentric arches with keystones. Eaves are trimmed with exposed rafter ends and ornamental bosses.

Fives Courts (1890, 1895, Peabody & Stearns architects)

The Fives Courts, built in 1890 for a particular style of handball, is a one-story, low-pitched gabled form with its west side elevation of six bays facing the Circle. Arch-topped window openings have fixed panes in the upper sections and paired double-hung units below. Eaves have modillions and dentils as do many of the other Classical Revival style buildings around the Circle. The south elevation has a covered walkway with colonnade that supports a low-pitched gabled roof and extends to the east to connect the adjacent Baseball Cage Building. The colonnade encloses a small courtyard between the Baseball Cage, Fives Courts and Dining Hall. The center of the colonnade is marked by a low-pitched conical roof.

Baseball Cage (1910, Bigelow and Wadsworth, Architects)

The Baseball Cage is a low gabled building constructed of brick with elements of the Classical Revival style. The original roof was glass but this has been either rebuilt or covered with asphalt shingles. Decorative features include the typical modillions and dentils at the eaves. Window openings, located alternately near the

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eaves and well down in the wall field, are relatively small and rectangular with fixed panes. Use of the Baseball Cage was originally for fielding and batting practice and was adapted to Visual Arts instruction in the mid 20th century and is now vacant.

Gardner House (1887-1888, R. Cliptson Sturgis of Brigham and Sturgis, Architect)

The wood frame Gardner House has elements of the Classical and Colonial Revival styles and is located south of and behind Hundred House. Built as the private residence for William Amory Gardner, a teacher from the time of the school's founding, the building is now faculty housing and is separated from the core of the campus by landscaping and by its southerly orientation away from the Circle. The two-story, four by four-bay form has wood clapboard siding, a ridge-hipped roof marked by two large brick chimneys and at least one gabled dormer. The principal elevation has an off-center entry covered by a shallow flat-roofed porch with an entablature supported by Corinthian columns. A three-sided, two-story bay window occupies the west side of the façade while a recessed but open porch occupies the bay above the off-center entry. This may have been built as a larger, more open porch that was later filled in to create additional interior space. Details include the dentils at the eaves, corner boards and prominent beltcourse between stories with ornamental bosses. Eggand-dart molding lines the architrave in the entry porch. Two story additions appear to have been made to the rear of the original house. Detached barns exist across the driveway to the south and were added in 1902. These are wood frame buildings with wood clapboard exteriors and Colonial Revival and Craftsman style details in the form of and arched doorway and exposed rafter ends and a hipped dormer.

Pleasure Dome (1901, R. B. Potter, Architect)

William Amory Gardner had the Pleasure Dome built to house a swimming pool, athletic facilities and meeting space. The wood frame building rises one story in a side gabled form with a south-facing gabled central pavilion exhibiting Classical Revival details. A row of six mulled and double-hung windows with transoms lines the façade on either side of the pavilion. Underneath the pavilion, four arched openings contain a combination of windows and doors. An arched blind fan acts as the central focus of the four openings. The tympanum of the pavilion contains carved swag ornament and a cartouche. A balustrade and cupola articulate the roof of the pavilion.

Entry Gates (1930, Henry Shepley and Arthur Schurcliff who changed his name from Shurtleff, c. 1930)

Three formal entries to the campus off Farmers Row have brick and stone gateways with commemorative inscriptions. The southernmost of the entry gates is the Bacon Gate which is inscribed "Given in memory of Elliott Cowdin Bacon, 1888-1924, Groton School 1900-1906". This consists of two angled wing walls built of brick that are attached to two brick piers via iron gates. The piers, rising to around ten feet in height, have round stone finials, stone cartouches, molded caps and swinging iron gates. The central gateway is inscribed "Given in memory of Edward Stirling and Maria Stone Auchincloss whose children and children's' children attended Groton School". In this example, curved wing walls are attached to the brick piers which have

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corbelled and molded caps and round stone finials. The northernmost gateway is inscribed "George Saltonstall West Jr. 1915-1933 Groton School 1928, 1933" and also has angled wing walls attached to brick piers with stone finials in the form of pineapples. The gateways are all similar in scale and design and formally mark the main access points to the campus.

Pest House (Infirmary, Chase & Ames, 1902, Addition 1928)

The Groton School Infirmary, called the Pest House, is a side-gabled brick building of two stories with Classical Revival style elements including the gabled entry surrounds, flat arches with keystones over the window openings and arched dormers. Symmetrical fenestration is a dominant feature of the façade that faces the rear of Hundred House.

Additional Buildings:

Aside from the core construction around the Circle, Groton School owns numerous additional buildings both historic and modern. Academic buildings from the mid 20th century and later have been built mainly in brick north and south of the Circle, leaving the western views toward the Nashua River and Central Massachusetts The physical plant and maintenance facilities were built on the east side of Farmers Row and continue to serve their original purpose. The Engineer's Cottage is a wood frame Cape Cod form of three bays and two stories built according to designs in 1924 by alumnus Henry Daland Chandler. The MacMillan Maintenance Building and associated barn, Boiler House, Power House, sheds garages and smokestack are noted in school archival documents as having been built in 1899. The Macmillan Building is the largest and is constructed of wood with a complex roofline and varied fenestration. A combination of vehicle and pedestrian doors, window types and structural additions lend it an attenuated floorplan. The Boiler and Power Houses share design features such as brick construction, exposed rafter ends, flat roofs and arched openings for the double-hung sash. Faculty and staff residences on Joy Lane, Farmers Row, Higley Street and Shirely Road are mainly wood frame buildings with some exceptions executed in brick. They are residential in scale and tend to derive their character from the Colonial and Classical Revival styles. These include Sturgis House, a brick, two-story side gabled form of six bays with complex massing that is dominated by the two brick pavilions with stepped gables flanking the center entry. The stepped gables replace original arched crests which altered the design from a Classical Revival to Dutch Revival style. Griswold House on Farmers Row is another two-story brick design but has a hipped roof, Classical Revival style details in the form of flat arches over the window openings, modillions at the eaves and a pedimented entry porch with Doric columns on the south elevation covering the segmental arched main entry. The Abbott House on Shirley Road is also built of brick with Classical Revival style details and has a nearly foursquare plan with hipped roof. A combination of flat and segmental arches articulates the varied openings in the Shirley Street elevation. Opposite the Abbot House on Shirley Road is Parents' House, a wood frame building of two stories marked by a broad, flat-roofed open porch supported by Doric columns over the center entry and shed dormers along the front roof slope. Jefferson House on Farmers Row is another wood frame residence with prominent dormers and has a gabled entry porch with Doric columns. The Reverend Endicott Peabody House at 237

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Farmers Row is a 2 1/2-story, ridge hipped form with a five-bay façade and elements of the Colonial Revival style. A sixth bay is set back from the façade and expands the plan to the north while an attached garage and connecting hyphen further expand the north side elevation. Details are sparse, consisting mainly of the symmetrical fenestration and classical trim around the enclosed porch which covers the center entry. The Colonial Revival style Scanlon House at 20 Peabody Street is a two and one-half-story, side-gabled, five by one-bay form with an attached gabled block at the west side that appears to contain a porch. An ell projects from the rear of the house and a second small gabled block is attached to the east side. Decorative features include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, corner boards and molded cornice. The Federal style Bancroft-Jackson-Graves House pre-dates the Groton School and has a five by two-bay, two and one-halfstory, side-gabled form. Decorative features include the molded cornice, gable returns, corner boards and the symmetrical fenestration in the main block. One brick chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof. The Federal style Joshua Eaton House at 182 Farmers Row also pre-dates the school and was recently acquired by it. The farmhouse is a five by two-bay, two and one-half-story, side-gabled form with a 2-story rear ell and one-story addition at the south side that connects the barn. A gable-roofed entry porch covers the center entry and a three-sided bay window expands the plan of the main block at the south side. Decorative features include the entry porch with classical details including Doric columns, entablature, dentils and modillions, molded cornice with modillions, gable returns, corner pilasters with molded bases and capitals, plain entry surround with sidelights and flanking pilasters and the symmetrical fenestration in the main block. This is a highly ornamented agricultural residence typical of Farmers Row but distinct from the majority of Groton School architecture.

The above descriptions constitute a representative sampling of non-academic architecture for the school but do not include all historic examples which number approximately 25.

Conclusion/Comparison

Groton School is one of three private schools in the town. Others are Lawrence Academy in Groton Center and the Country Day School of the Holy Union at 14 Main Street just south of the center. Lawrence Academy, a college preparatory school founded in 1792, is the more comparable to Groton in terms of campus size and architectural resources which, at Lawrence, include Federal and Victorian style residences now in use as faculty and student housing, some of which is located on Main Street (west of the campus core). The center of the Lawrence Academy campus consists of the Quadrangle framed by four Colonial Revival and Neo Georgian style academic buildings which were built between the mid 20th and early 21st century. The Country Day School of the Holy Union is sited on a smaller campus and lacks the equivalent of a Quadrangle or Circle, although given its past use as the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, it does retain significant landscape and architectural resources such as the Dawson Gate, student designed wooded circulation networks, the Colonial Revival style former dormitory building and the Federal style residence built for Susan Prescott, founder of Miss Prescott's School for Girls c. 1820 which was a predecessor to the Lowthorpe School. While Groton School has a shorter history than the other private institutions, it excels in terms of the landscape design and in the cohesion and design quality of the architecture.

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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

Groton School is an exclusive college preparatory school founded by Reverend Endicott Peabody who belonged to a family and social network that included his father, financier Samuel Endicott Peabody, J. P. Morgan, Reverend Phillips Brooks and Episcopal Bishop James Lawrence, among other very wealthy and highly educated individuals. The above named people were all original members of the Board of Trustees for Groton School and established the extremely high standards for admission. Reverend Peabody, with assistance from his trustees but largely through his own perseverance and clear articulation of vision, was able to gain donations of land and funding for construction of Brooks House in 1884 as well as later buildings, thus beginning the institution that would bear his strong imprint for the next 120 years.

Pre-1884

Prior to the establishment of the Groton School, land now comprising the center of the campus was in use as farmland and unoccupied by buildings. Farming had been carried out in the surrounding fields for nearly two centuries by Groton residents such as John Davis who was living 1/10 mile south of the Circle when, in October, 1704, he was killed in his dooryard by Native Americans making war on English settlers. (A commemorative stone with such an inscription lies on the west side of Shirley Road below Joy Lane.) By 1832 according to the Caleb Butler map of Groton, John Fisk occupied a farm near the campus. Mr. Fisk was recorded in the 1790 Federal Census and may have lived here since that time. Approximately a half dozen additional residents lived less than a mile away from the current campus in 1832.

By 1856, according to the Walling map of Middlesex County, around a dozen residences were within a mile of the campus, although the area comprising the Circle appears to have been farmland and not the site of a residence. Nearby on Shirley Road, however, were shops for making hoops, shoes, blacksmith goods and yeast, all affiliated with the "Community", a neighborhood of followers of the Reverend William Miller documented by Edward Adams Richardson in The Community: Groton, Massachusetts, The Story of a Neighborhood in 1911. Adherents of the religious principles of Rev. Miller numbered around 50,000 nationwide and believed in the second advent of Christ and the end of the world which was expected to occur between the vernal equinoxes of 1843 and 1844. Disappointed in March of 1844, Mr. Miller revised his estimate for the timing of the world's end based on new mathematical formulae taken from numbers mentioned in the various books of the Bible to occur in October, 1844, when, to the chagrin of those who had neglected daily farm chores or actually given away their property, the status quo of course prevailed. The local leader of Millerites in Groton was Benjamin Hall, a native of Westford who moved to a site on Shirley Road around 1840 where he established his "Community", the name that the location of the Millerites'

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neighborhood would retain for several decades after their departure. Through the sale of parts of his 120 acre farm to fellow believers, ownership of the Community was dispersed and expanded to around 12 households. Many of these made homes of former farm outbuildings and all are now moved away or demolished. The core of the settlement was located south of the stables of the Gardner House on the Groton School Campus. Also nearby was a building with a tall roof that functioned as wood shop, meeting house, hall and school, an arrangement that lasted for around six of the ten or so years the Community existed. In 1856, Benjamin Hall moved away, eventually settling in Wisconsin and drawing around 25 Groton Adventists there. The hall was taken down in 1878.

As shown on the 1875 Beers Atlas of Middlesex County, the site of the Circle remained unoccupied although was likely in use as farmland. The number of residents living nearby had decreased to around a half dozen, Benjamin F. Hartwell being the closest.

Architecture

According to Groton School historian and Reverend Peabody's biographer, Frank Ashburn, there was at the time of the school's founding an unidentified white farmhouse and red barn used as a gymnasium on the school grounds. Also, the Butler map of 1832 indicates that what is now Graves House was the residence of William Bancroft (287 Farmers Row). Francis Marion Boutwell, recording recollections of Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth in 1883, states the house was built by Lieutenant William A. Bancroft in 1815. This may be the William Bancroft who was born in 1756 and was a seven year veteran of the Revolutionary War. From 1847 -1856, John J. Graves is depicted as the owner. Mr. Graves, a butcher and trader, later lived at 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). Edmund Blood occupied the building in 1875 according to the Beers atlas from that year and to tax records which show he had 2 horses, 9 cows, a house and barn on 100 acres which are typical amounts for Groton farmers. By 1884, the house was in use as the Groton School Foreman's residence according to Boutwell. Edward Adams Richardson notes that the barn burned on May 30, 1887. This may have been the barn mentioned by Ashburn.

1884-1903

Groton School was founded in 1884 by the Reverend Endicott Peabody after a meeting held in the home of his friend and relative by marriage, James Lawrence. Out of a desire to assist his friend in his ambitions and to promote Episcopal education, Mr. Lawrence, who lived at 44 Farmers Row (MHC #89), offered to buy for Reverend Peabody the 90 acre parcel that eventually became the core of the campus of Groton School. Peabody Biographer Frank Ashburn states that Frederick Law Olmsted visited and approved of the site prior to any construction taking place.

The original Board of Trustees included the Episcopal Reverend (later Bishop) Phillips Brooks; William Lawrence (also a Bishop of the Episcopal Church); Samuel Endicott Peabody, the founder's father and a banker with ties to J. P. Morgan; William C. Endicott, state Supreme Court justice and later U. S. Secretary of

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War; J. P. Morgan Sr., financier and steel magnate; and James Lawrence, Reverend Peabody's brother in law and descendant of philanthropist Amos Lawrence. Endicott Peabody, himself a descendant of the wealthy Cabot and Lee families, was the final member and president of the original board. All members but Morgan and Endicott Peabody were alumni of Harvard University and many were related to each other by blood or marriage. The vast financial resources of the board, used to fund the initial school buildings, were augmented by members' skillful appeals to the wider array of upper class New York and Boston society, establishing the school early on as the educational destination of choice for many respected families in the region.

The land for the school had been owned by John J. Graves, a wealthy butcher and farmer who had lived at 287 Farmers Row in what is now known as Graves House. Mr. Graves' executors sold it to the brothers Prescott and James Lawrence who deeded it to the Groton School Board of Trustees in memory of their sister Gertrude. The Board of Trustees was formed by a declaration of trust on February 23, 1884 according to documents in the school archives under the care of Douglas Brown. Endicott Peabody appears to have already raised \$34,000 by that time according to Ashburn.

The administration consistently maintained the idea that the school should take part in community affairs rather than exist in isolation as many schools and colleges did at the time. In 1897, Reverend Peabody determined that the students and faculty were not the only ones in need of an improved water supply and so contributed beyond the expected amount toward a municipal water supply system so that the entire town might benefit. Also, at the April, 1891 town meeting, during a heated debate about whether to fund a public library building, Reverend Peabody entered the town hall and swayed the vote in favor, according to diary entries of the event reproduced in Virginia May's history Groton Houses. Further, Reverend Sherrard Billings, another founding Groton School instructor, served in 1901 on the Groton School Committee. Also, in a departure from the usual well established New England and New York personalities asked to speak at the Prize Day celebration, the social reformer and Danish native Jacob Riis delivered an address in 1903. Thus were established principles and examples of public service that animated the curriculum of the school from its earliest days and continue today as part of Reverend Peabody's influence.

Architecture

Reverend Peabody was closely involved in the design of most of the buildings as well as the campus layout during his tenure as headmaster from 1884-1940. Between 1884 and 1902, the prominent Boston architecture firm of Peabody (possibly a distant relative of the founder) and Stearns was responsible for English Revival, Colonial Revival and Classical Revival designs in brick of Brooks House (The original schoolhouse, rector's residence and dormitory), Fives Courts (Handball courts), Hundred House (Dormitory and original dining hall), the Schoolhouse and the second Gymnasium while R. Clipston Sturgis designed the wood frame Gardner House in the Colonial Revival style as a private residence for William Amory Gardner, one of the three original faculty members along with Sherrard Billings and Reverend Peabody. Henry Vaughan, a designer of the National Cathedral and of the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul at St. Paul's School in New Hampshire, designed the Gothic Revival style chapel which is the school's only limestone building. The firm of Chase

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and Ames of Boston designed the Pest House to serve as the Infirmary in 1902. The Olmsted influence on the landscape and campus is visible in the round central open space which, according to landscape design researcher Faith Smith, was a compromise between Reverend Peabody and employees of Frederick Law Olmsted. (Smith indicates it is unclear exactly how much part Frederick Law Olmsted personally took in the design although he is known to have visited the site on at least one occasion).

Secondary campus buildings from the period include mainly residences such as the Gardner House for William Amory Gardner (The town's largest individual taxpayer in 1891) by John H. Sturgis in 1887-1888 and his Pleasure Dome (Swimming Pool, Squash Courts, and Gym) in 1901 by Groton Alumnus Robert Burnside Potter who trained at the Ecole Des Baux-Arts; Gardner Bungalow for domestic help of Mr. Gardner in 1902; Sturgis House, a faculty residence, in 1899 by the architecture firm Brigham and Sturgis (Richard Clipston Sturgis, designer); Huebner House in 1900 and Jefferson House in 1901. A Groton Landmark article from July 12, 1902 states that Hundred House and the Gymnasium were recently connected to the heat at the power house, built in 1899 according to school archival records.

1904-1958

The core of Groton's campus was in place by 1903 although construction continued through the Early Modern Period on residential buildings for faculty and staff. Reverend Peabody continued to serve as headmaster, or rector as he was also called, until 1940. Few changes took place in the curriculum, mission or makeup of the school, particularly after enrollment reached approximately 190, Dr. Peabody's preferred number of students for effective teaching and for maintaining his ideal sense of a student community.

Events on the campus sometimes overshadowed the prominence that Groton had attained as a school. For example, Franklin Roosevelt, an alumnus from 1900, stopped briefly at Parents House late in his 1932 presidential campaign to express his adoption of more progressive policies regarding social issues arising as a result of the Great Depression. According to the *New York Times*, the speech coincided with increasing support of those voters formerly adhering to defeated Democratic candidate Alfred Smith and leaning, a few days prior to Election Day, toward Roosevelt, thus earning him a plurality in Massachusetts. Mr. Roosevelt chose to visit not only because his sons were students at the time but also because of the high regard in which he held Dr. Peabody as seen in the following excerpt from Carol Gelderman's biography of author and alumnus Louis Auchincloss:

"Groton and Endicott Peabody seemed synonymous to most people; he made the school in his image by virtue of his dominant nature and purposefulness. Even [alumni parent] Theodore Roosevelt called him the most powerful personality he had ever encountered, and [alumnus and alumni parent] Franklin Roosevelt claimed that, apart from his mother, Peabody was the strongest influence in his life. None of the headmasters, and this was the era of great headmasters – Samuel Drury of St. Paul's, William Greenough Thayer of St. Mark's, Frank Boyden of Deerfield – ever attained the fame of Endicott Peabody of Groton. He utterly dominated the school, the many strong men who served on his faculty, his board of trustees, all powerful men themselves,

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and, of course, the students. "I don't think I ever met a man who radiated such absolute authority," Auchincloss said".

It is worth noting some examples of how Dr. Peabody's philosophy of public service continued into the 20th century. Faculty member Louis C. Zahner served as library trustee from 1930-1966 and town moderator from 1948-1959 according to Helen Sawyer writing in More People and Places of Groton. Also, faculty member William Amory Gardner bought forest land across the Nashua River from the western edge of the school for conservation purposes and, upon his death in 1930, left it in his will to the school. The board of trustees later sold it to the town when it was added to the existing Town Forest. Recent acquisitions by the school include large parcels of open land to the north (near 182 Farmers Row MHC #86) and to the south on Shirley Road in what is now called the Surrenden Farms Area or General Field (MHC Area AA). (Surrenden Farms comprises multiple parcels that are co-owned by the town and a variety of conservation organizations)

Architecture

Abbott House, 1906, Henry Richards

Griswold House, 1907, Henry Richards

Lower Library in Hundred House, 1909, Winslow, Bigelow and Wadsworth

Baseball Cage, 1910, Bigelow and Wadsworth

Richards House, 1911, Henry Richards

Brooks House Wing, 1915-1916, Peabody and Stearns

Norton House, 1917, McKim, Mead and White

Cutting House, 1919-1920, Bigelow and Wadsworth

Engineer's Cottage, 1924, Henry Daland Chandler

The Hall, Auditorium in the Schoolhouse, 1926, Cross and Cross (Alumni of Groton, Ecole Des Beaux-Arts)

Nash House, 1926, William Adams

Clark House, 1930-1931, Peabody, Wilson and Brown

Addition to Brooks House, 1931, Henry Shepley (Alumnus of Groton, Ecole Des Beaux-Arts)

Auchincloss and Bacon Gates, 1930, Henry Shepley

East Wing of Schoolhouse, 1932, Henry Daland Chandler (Alumnus of Groton, Ecole Des Beaux-Arts)

Peabody House, 1941, H. Daland Chandler

Davison Addition to Brooks House, 1953, J. Radford Abbott

Auchincloss Gate, Bacon Gate, West Gate, c. 1930

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

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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 X

Criteria:

XA B

X C I

Criteria considerations:

A

C

В

D

Е

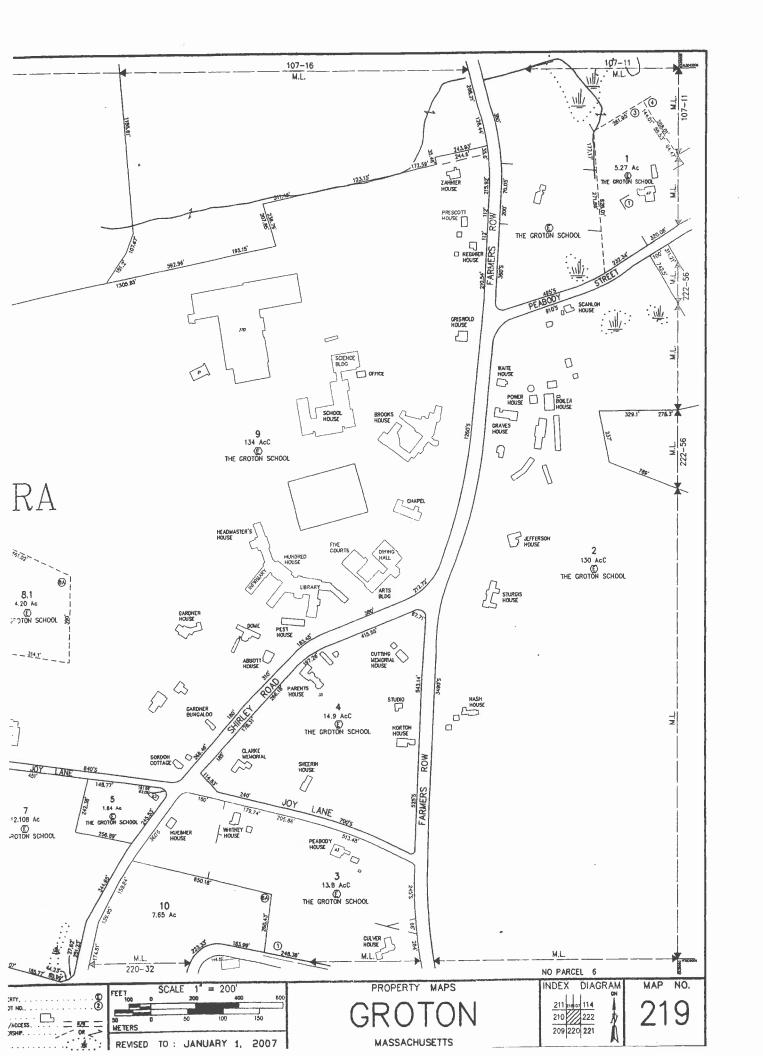
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Statement of significance by: Sanford Johnson

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

Groton School, founded in 1884 by Reverend Endicott Peabody, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with historic events such as visits by Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt and for its embodiment of English style private school principles resulting in the extremely high educational standards that produced numerous important public servants, artists, educators, businesspeople and architects. The school is eligible under criterion C for its distinctive Colonial and Classical Revival style characteristics seen in the highly refined building designs of Hundred House, the Chapel, the Schoolhouse and others. The landscape bears elements typical of Frederick Law Olmsted who participated in the initial layout of the buildings and the Circle, or campus core. Groton School is eligible as a district at the national level.



Groton School District Data Sheet

| Map- Lot | мнс# | Street# | Address | Outbldgs/ Structures | Historic Name | Date | Style/Form | Uses: Present | Architect/Builder |
|----------------|------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| 219-8 | 499 | | Farmers Row | | Dining Hall-Old Gymnasium | 1902 | Classical Revival | Dining hall | Peabody & Stearns |
| 219-9 | 500 | | Farmers Row | | Student Center | 1975 | No style | Academic | |
| 219-8 | 501 | | Farmers Row | | Science Wing | c. 1975 | N/A | Academic | |
| 219-8 | 502 | | Farmers Row | | Griswold House | 1907 | Classical Revival | Residential | Henry Richards, Arch. |
| 219-2 | 503 | | Farmers Row | | Boiler House | c. 1899 | N/A | Power generation | † |
| 219-8 | 504 | | Farmers Row | | Chapel | 1900 | Gothic Revival | Religious | Henry Vaughan, Arch. R.A. Cram, Coat of Arms |
| 219-2 | 505 | | Farmers Row | | Power House | c. 1899 | N/A | Power generation | |
| 219-2 | 506 | | Farmers Row | | Nash House | 1926 | Colonial Revival | Residential | William Adams, Arch., New York |
| 219-9 | 507 | | Farmers Row | | Auchincloss Gate | c. 1932 | N/A | Entry gate | Henry Shepley '06 with Arthur Schurcliff |
| 219-8 | 508 | | Farmers Row | | School House | 1899, 1932 addition | Classical Revival | Academic | Peabody & Stearns |
| 219-2 | 509 | | Farmers Row | | Sturgis House | c. 1899 | English Revival | Residential | R. Clipston Sturgis of Brigham and Sturgis |
| 219 | 510 | | Farmers Row | | Jefferson House | 1901 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 219-8 | 511 | | Farmers Row | | Fives Courts | 1890, 1895, 1901 | Classical Revival | Fives/ handball | Peabody & Stearns |
| 219-8 | 512 | | Farmers Row | | Athletic Center | c. 1998 | N/A | Athletics | |
| 219- 4.3820 | 513 | | Farmers Row | | Campbell Performing Arts Center | 2004 | N/A | Performing arts | Graham Gund |
| 219-9 | 514 | | Farmers Row | | Whitney Baseball Cage | 1910 | Classical Revival | Art Center | Bigelow and Wadsworth |
| 219-8 | 515 | | Farmers Row | | Visual Arts | 2002 | N/A | Academic | |
| 219-9 | 516 | | Farmers Row | | Bacon Gate | c. 1924 | N/A | Entry gate | Henry Shepley, '06 |
| 219-9 | 517 | | Farmers Row | | West Gate | c. 1934 | N/A | Entry Gate | |
| 219-2 | 518 | | Farmers Row | | Buildings and Grounds-McMillan | c. 1899 | Victorian Ecelctic | Campus maintenance | |
| 219-8 | 519 | | Farmers Row | | Brooks House | 1884 | Kentish | Dormitory | Peabody & Stearns |

| Map- Lot | мнс# | Street# | Address | Outbldgs/ Structures | Historic Name | Date | Style/Form | Uses: Present | Architect/Builder |
|------------------------|------|---------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | | Manor/English Revival | | |
| 107 16 | 86 | 182 | Farmers Row | Attached 19th c. barn, detached modern garage | Eaton, Joshua House | c. 1790 | Federal | Residential | |
| 219- 9.2909 | 343 | 234 | Farmers Row | | Zahner House | 1920 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 107 11 | 520 | 237 | Farmers Row | Attached garage | Endicott Peabody House | 1941 | Colonial Revival | Residential | Daland Chandler, architect |
| 219 9.2911 | 521 | 246 | Farmers Row | | Prescott House | 1933 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 219 9.2912 | 522 | 250 | Farmers Row | | Reginier House | 1941 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 219 2 | 39 | 281 | Farmers Row | | Hopkins-Waitt House | c. 1820 | Federal- Victorian Eclectic | Residential-Groton School | |
| 219 2 | 40 | 287 | Farmers Row | Dooryard fence, rebuilt, 2005 | Bancroft-Jackson- Graves House | c. 1815 | Federal | Residential-Groton School | |
| 219- 2.3 836 | 523 | 295 | Farmers Row | | Engineers House (Durant House) | c. 1924 | Cape Cod | | H. Daland Chandler, '02 |
| 219- 4.3821 | 524 | 364 | Farmers Row | | Norton House | 1917 | | Residential | McKim Mead and White |
| 219- 3.3827 | 525 | 410 | FarmersRow | | Culver House | 1880 | | Residential | |
| 107-10 | 528 | 35 | Higley Street | | Bentinck-Smith House 1 | | | Residential | |
| 107- 11.3121 | 529 | 64 | Higley Street | | Pittman House | 1920 | | Residential | |
| 107- 11.3122 | 530 | 76 | Higley Street | | Sackett House | 1995 | N/A | Residential | |
| 222-60 | 531 | 90 | Higley Street | | Scudder House | 1930 | | Residential | |
| 219-9 | 534 | | Joy Lane | | Lyons House | 1 | <u> </u> | Residential | |
| 219-9 | 535 | | Joy Lane | | Fidler House | + | | Residential | |
| 219-4 | 536 | | Joy Lane | | Daycare Center | c. 2000 | N/A | Child day care | |
| 219-3 | 537 | Ì | Joy Lane | | Whitney House | c. 1840 | | Residential | |
| 219-4 | 538 | | Joy Lane | | Sheerin House | 1961 | | Residential | |
| 219-9 | 539 | | Joy Lane | | Black House | Ì | | Residential | |

| Map- Lot | мнс# | Street# | Address | Outbldgs/ Structures | Historic Name | Date | Style/Form | Uses: Present | Architect/Builder |
|----------------|------|---------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 219- 3.3826 | 540 | 19 | Joy Lane | | Peabody House East and West | 1940 | | Residential | |
| 219- 9.3810 | 541 | 98 | Joy Lane | | Richards House | 1911 | | Residential | Henry Richards, Arch. |
| 219-9 | 550 | | Nashua River | | Richards Boathouse | 1953 | N/A | Rowing/ Boathouse | |
| 219 2.3228 | 556 | 20 | Peabody Street | | Scanlon House | c. 1919 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 222-58 | 557 | 62 | Peabody Street | | Belsey Barn | | | | |
| 222-58 | 558 | 62 | Peabody Street | | Smith House 2 | 1968 | | Residential | |
| 219 | 577 | | Shirley Road | | Pest House | 1894 | Clasical Revival | | Chase and Ames |
| 219 | 578 | | Shirley Road | | Goodrich House | | | Residential | |
| 219 | 579 | | Shirley Road | | Gordon House | 1901 | | Residential | |
| 219 | 580 | | Shirley Road | | Gardner Barn | 1887, 1902 | Victorian Eclectic | | |
| 219 | 581 | | Shirley Road | | Dome | 1901 | Classical Revival | | R. B. Potter, , '87, Arch. |
| 219 | 582 | 2 | Shirley Road | | Gardner Bungalow | 1901 | Dutch Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 219- 4.3816 | 583 | 13 | Shirley Road | | Cutting House | c. 1920 | Classical Revival | Residential | Bigelow and Wadsworth |
| 219 | 584 | 33 | Shirley Road | | Gunderson House | | | Residential | |
| 219- 4.3818 | 585 | 35 | Shirley Road | | Parents House | 1920 | Colonial Revival | Residential | |
| 219- 9.3809 | 580 | 50 | Shirley Road | | Abbott House | 1906 | Colonial Revival | Residential | Henry Richards, Arch. |
| 219- 9.3811 | 58 | 7 60 | Shirley Road | | Gardner House | 1888 | Classical Revival | Residential | R. Clipston Sturgis, Arch. |
| 219- 4.3819 | 588 | 8 63 | Shirley Road | | Clark Memorial | 1931 | Colonial Revival | Residential | Peabody, Wilson and Brown |
| 219- 3.3824 | 589 | 9 83 | Shirley Road | | Huebner House | 1900 | | Residential | |
| 219- 9.2914 | 590 | 0 270 | Shirley Road | | Headmasters- Hundered House- Health Center | 1891 | Classical Reviva | Academic/ Dormitory/ Library | Peabody & Stearns |

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Schoolhouse, northeast view



Chapel and Gym, east view

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Property AddressFarmers Row

Area(s) Groton School Form No.



Brooks House



Brooks House

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Area(s) Groton School Form No.



Hundred House



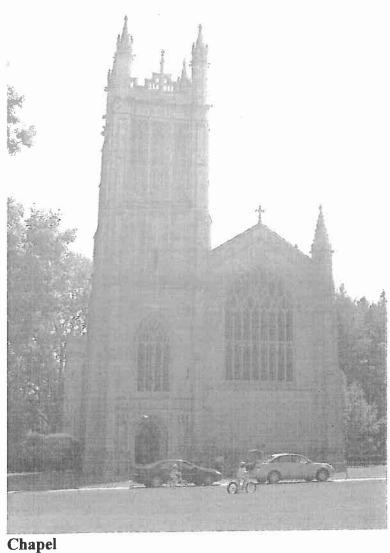
Hundred House

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Photos

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Fives Courts (left) and Baseball Cage



Gymnasium

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Sturgis House



Griswold House

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Property AddressFarmers Row

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Abbott House



Parents House

Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard Massachusetts Archives Building Boston, MA 02125 Town Groton **Property Address**Farmers Row

Area(s) Groton School Form No.



MacMillan Maintenance Facility