

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 107-14 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 437

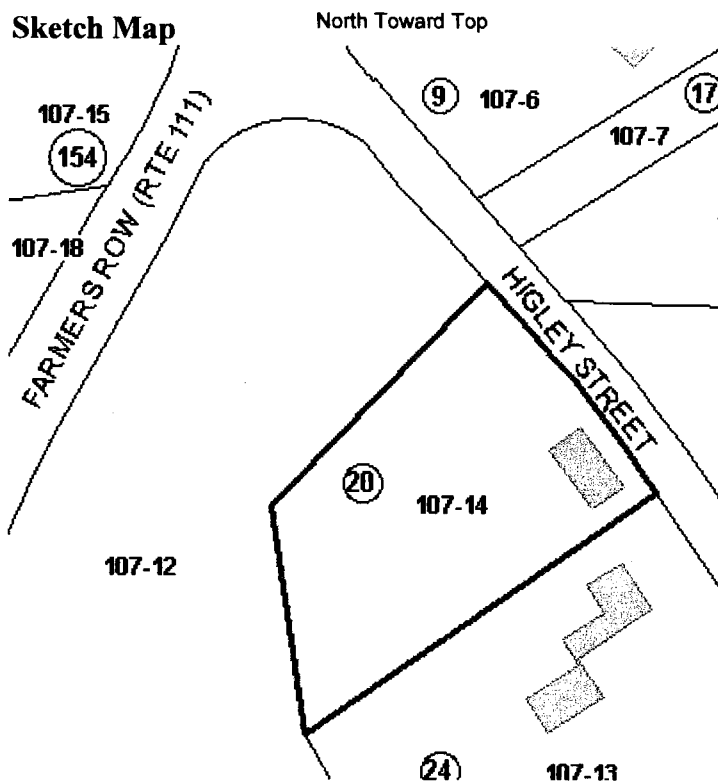
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

Address 20 Higley Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source 1856 Walling map

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .86

Setting Rural

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 main block of the house at 20 Higley Street is a 1x2-bay, front gabled form with of 1 1/2 stories with a 1-story ell at the southeast side
- * Victorian Eclectic stle decorative elements are the corner boards, gable returns and molded cornice
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with two fixed 9-pane units in the northwest elevation at the second story
- * The main entry at he southwest corner of the main block has plain trim and a segmental arched hood
- * A 1-bay, side-gabled garage built c. 1940 occupies the western edge of the lot
- * The house is well-maintained and occupies an open rural parcel with views of Farmers Row to the west

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 earliest map depicting the parcel with a house is from 1856 when George Farnsworth, owner of 132 Farms Row (MHC #85) is depicted as the owner here as well. Mr. Farnsworth is listed in 1855 census schedules as a 45-year-old farmer living, probably on Farmers Row, with his Irish house keeper Jane and three children. He may have either rented this property or housed his employees here. According to the same census schedules, it is likely the occupant in 1855 were the Irish immigrants Mary and John Haggett who worked as a laborer. Mr. Farnsworth owned the property until c. 1875, after which time it was sold to A. W. Hart who in the 1888 resident directory was listed as a farmer on Farmers Row. The 1930 owner was Mrs. John Lawrence who also owned houses at 112, 133, 154 Farmers Row (MHC #s 194, 85 and 379) in addition to the neighboring building 24 Higley Street (MHC ###). By 1939, it was depicted as an occupied house in good condition surrounded with pasture. Higley Street appears to have been named for Edward Higley, a teacher at Groton School according to the 1888 resident and busienns directory for Ayer and Groton.

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, 1888, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map; 1888 Resident Directory

**** 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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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)
Form No.



20 Higley Street



20 Higley Street