

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 132 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 153

Town Groton3
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 30 Hollis Street
Historic Name Palmer's Block
Uses: Present Commercial
Original Commercial
Date of Construction c. 1898
Source Sanborn Map, 1896, 1901
Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Reduced to one story after fire, c. 1923

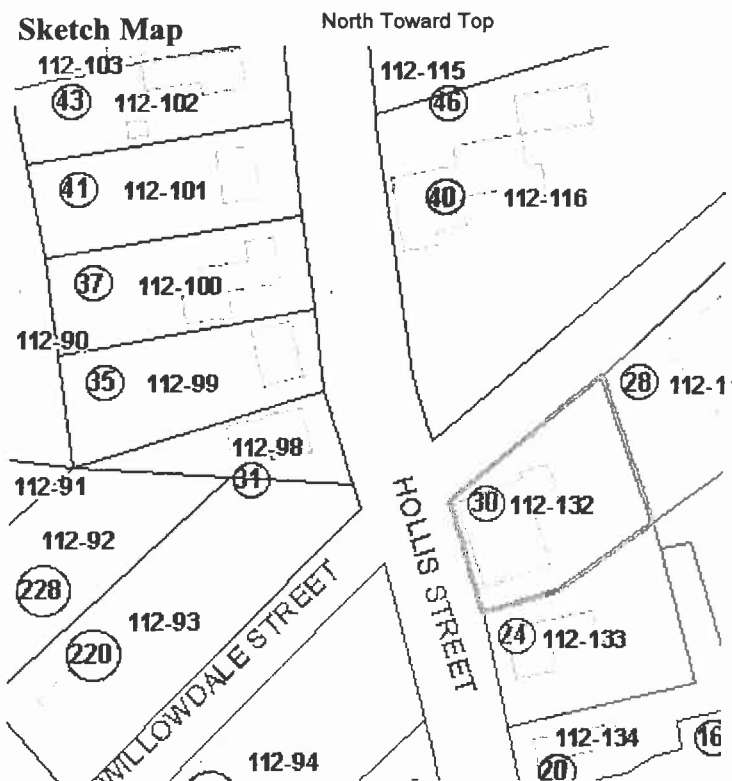
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .3

Setting Town Center

Sketch Map



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.

- * Palmer's Block (also called Woods' Block) is a one-story, wood framed commercial building containing four shops
- * The low-pitched front gable roof is a prominent feature
- * The façade is covered by a full-width hipped porch supported by square posts with molded caps
- * Windows in the facade are a combination of 2/2 and 3/3 double hung units that are larger than those found in residential applications
- * Four doorways with simple trim and transoms line the façade
- * Decorative features include the molded cornice, hoods over the 1/1 double-hung sash in the gable peak and deep eave trim
- * The building is well-maintained and is one of a small number of historic wood frame commercial buildings in the town center

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 Palmer Block was built between the publication of the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and contained a laundry, plumber (possibly Frank M. Blood, listed as such on Hollis Street in the 1918 resident directory), grocery store and meat market. By 1906, the laundry, meat market, grocery store, a confectioner and billiard room occupied the first floor and the Grange Hall and a barber shop were on the second. The 1930 map of Groton depicts the building as belonging to Moses P. Palmer, resident of 270 Boston Road (MHC #130). Moses (c. 1830-1920) was a farmer who was wounded in one of the Battles of Bull Run in the Civil War, served as a representative to the Middlesex District Court in 1883, justice of the peace in 1881 and state senator in 1888. Virginia May states in "Groton Houses" that the building was originally three stories but was partially burned in 1923, resulting in the one-story existing building. Before the fire, the wood clapboard building had a side-gabled roof oriented parallel to Hollis Street with three dormers across the front slope. It continues to house small businesses including a barber, photo studio and a sign painter's shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHC Research; May, Groton Houses, p. 172; Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1896-1906;

**** 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 **Property Address**
Groton

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

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



30 Hollis St