

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 234 1 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 158

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)

Address 245 Lowell Road
Historic Name Sullivan, Governor James House
Uses: Present Residential - Agricultural
Original Residential - Agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1776

Source GHS research

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Modern barns

Major Alterations (with dates)

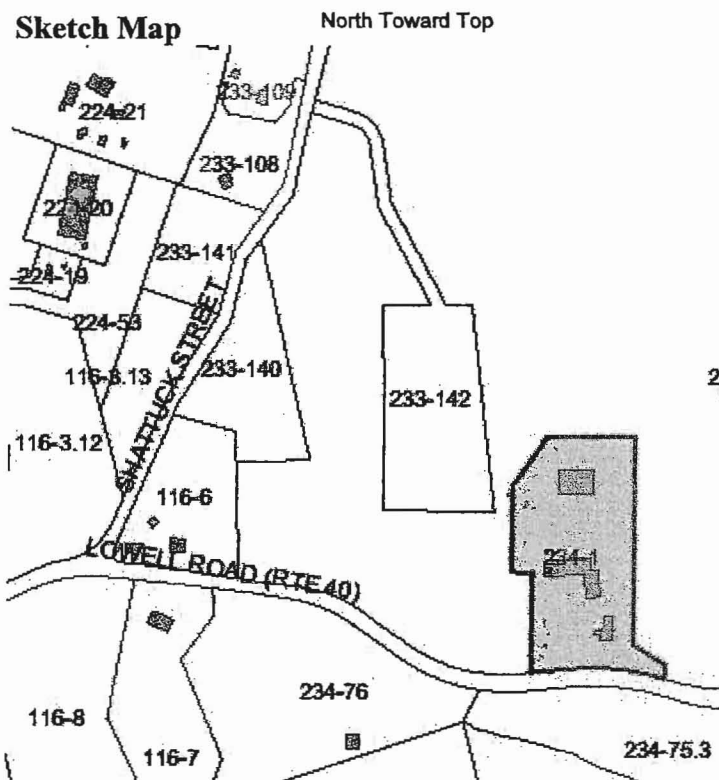
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 125

Setting Rural

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

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 Sullivan House is a Federal style, 5x2-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story building with a 2-story ell attached to the west side
- * Ornamental features consists of the corner boards, molded cornice, gable returns and symmetrical fenestration in the façade
- * The south-facing center entry has a classical surround with sidelights, pilasters, architrave, frieze and cornice
- * Windows are primarily 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim although a 6/9 unit exists in the west gable peak and the ell has 2/2 sash
- * The center brick chimney is of typical proportions to most others from the Federal period in Groton although the double arched cap is unusual
- * The detached barn is not visible from the road
- * The house is located on a large open parcel on the south slope of Angus Hill in a rural section of Groton and appears to be relatively unaltered

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.

Dr. Green's Historical Series indicates Captain Asa Lawrence was the first owner of the house at 245 Lowell Road prior to moving to his house near the current site of 2 Farmers Row (MHC #88). Captain Lawrence commanded one of Groton's two companies of minutemen on April 19th, 1775 and the Second Company at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He later lost the property through foreclosure. Judge James Sullivan bought the house in 1778, possibly having visited the house prior to that time when it was owned by Asa Lawrence. Judge Sullivan served as a delegate to the convention to form the state constitution in 1779 while a resident in Groton. He later moved to Arlington (Menotomy) and while a resident there was elected governor of the state in 1807. Subsequent owners were Merrick Lewis in 1829, (when Butler described the house in its current form and labeled it as "old") the farmer Thomas Hutchins from c. 1847 - c. 1856 and Joseph Nelson Hoar, resident of 245 Lowell Road and innkeeper at the Groton Inn (130 Main Street, MHC #11, NRIND) in 1875. Mr. Hoar appears in the 1850 Non-population Census Schedules as a papermaker with a water-powered mill the employed three men and a woman at an unspecified location. By 1889, H. Richardson was depicted as the owner. In 1930, the house was owned by Joseph B. Raddin. In 1939, the property was in use as a farm planted in timber and orchards. The property continues to be used for agricultural purposes including raising hay and horses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Green, Vol. I, # VII; 1832, 1847 Butler maps; 1956 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Previous GHS research; 1939 WPA map; Green, Vol. 4, p. 431; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1855, 1865 state census; 19930 Groton map; Butler's Field notes, 1828-1829; Non-population Census Schedules;

**** 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

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

245 Lowell Road

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
245 Lowell Road

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 Federal Style Governor Sullivan House at 245 Lowell Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. Dr. Green's Historical Series indicates Captain Asa Lawrence was the first owner of the house at 245 Lowell Road prior to moving to his house near the current site of 2 Farmers Row (MHC #88). Captain Lawrence (d. 1804) commanded one of Groton's two companies of minutemen on April 19th, 1775 and the Second Company at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He later lost the property through foreclosure. Judge James Sullivan bought the house in 1778, possibly having visited the house prior to that time when it was owned by Asa Lawrence. Judge Sullivan served as a delegate to the convention to form the state constitution in 1779 while a resident in Groton. The building's associations with historic political, military and agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade, and surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.