

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 115 1 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 19

Town Groton  
Place (neighborhood or village)  
Groton Center - Lawrence Academy

### Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" 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 36 Main Street

Historic Name Park, John G. House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1829

Source May, "Groton Houses"

Style/Form Federal, Classical Revival

Architect/Builder P. Nutting, Bldr; L. Park, architect, 190

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Bays added to the façade, roof changed from gable to hip, dormers added, chimneys rebuilt, 1906

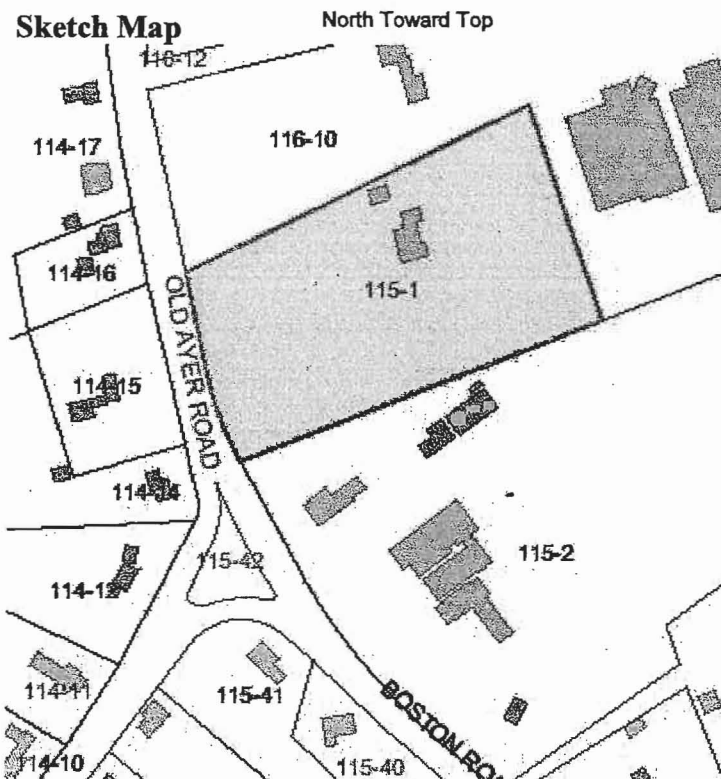
Condition Excellent

Moved no ☐ yes ☒ Date 1906

Acreage 6.17

Setting Town Center - Lawrence Academy Campus

### 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 Park House, now the residence of the Lawrence Academy Headmaster, is a large, highly ornate Classical Revival style estate with a 5-bay Federal style house at its core; the main block of the house is a 2 1/2-story, 7x2-bay, ridge-hipped form with a 2-story ridge-hipped ell attached to the north side elevation; three gabled dormers mark the front slope of the roof while three large brick chimneys rise from the sides and rear; an arched open porch covers the center entry
- \* Ornamental elements include the molded cornice, corner boards and the symmetrical fenestration in the façade; paired Doric columns support the entry porch with its broken segmental arched pediment
- \* Windows have beaded trim and hoods on the first story; sash are primarily 6/6 double-hung units although the dormers have 3/3 sash and the center entry is flanked by smaller 2/2 sash; the center entry has 1/2-length sidelights, pilasters and a cornice
- \* The site is elevated above and well back from the southern end of Main Street, separated by a picket fence and winding drive up the hill; ornamental plantings and trees enhance the parcel
- \* The house is the largest and among the most refined in the town center; it is comparable in scale to the larger estates on Farmers Row; the Lawrence Academy campus is located adjacent to the east (rear) and north side

### 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.*

John G. Park (b. c. 1801) received the house in 1829 as a wedding gift from his father, the stone mason and builder, Stuart J. Park (b. 1773). The builder, according to May, was Captain Peter Nutting, who built two others with the identical plan nearby, possibly at 47 Main Street (MHC #18). The house was originally located on the west side of Main Street, had a single chimney and was painted white according to Caleb Butler's field notes from 1829-30. Many Park family members were involved in carving gravestones in Groton's cemetery as well as other cemeteries around the region. John G. Park served as Groton's town clerk from 1834-36 and representative to the Massachusetts General Court in 1836 and 1838 and is recorded in tax valuations as the owner of \$3,500 in real property and \$5,500 in stocks which was a great deal of personal wealth. He is listed in state census schedules as a farmer despite his gentlemanly status. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 note that he owned 85 acres, a horse and a cow and small amount of agricultural produce. By 1860, he had 225 acres, \$16,000 in property, a stone works for making gravestones and monuments of Italian marble and granite that employed 4 men. Mr. Park is depicted as the owner on the 1875 Beers atlas which shows that he also owned the parcel across the street where the house would ultimately be relocated in 1906. A newspaper article from 1845 notes he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Worcester & Nashua Railroad and participated in the pre-construction planning. The 1889 tax valuations indicate the house belonged to the John G. Park estate, suggesting his son John G. Park Jr., a surgeon, lived here after that time. Subsequent owner and son of John G. Park Jr., the architect Lawrence Park had the house moved in 1906 (Daniel C. Lovell was listed in the 1888 resident directory as a building mover and may have been involved in this project) across the street and up the hill, enlarged the floor plan adding bays to the facade, altered the roof from a gabled to hipped form and added dormers. Lawrence Park was an architect who belonged to The Anthology Society, a seminal Boston cultural institution and for whom he drew recreations of Boston streetscapes of the Federal

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Whipple, Academy Days, p. 112; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; 1875 Beers Atlas; Butler's Field Notes, 1829-30; Boston: A Topographical History, pp. 58-61; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1855, 1865 state census; Boston Resident Directory, 1905; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 70, 73; John G. Park. Article describing his involvement in the management and planning of the Worcester & Nashua RR. Barre Patriot, July 4, 1845; 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**

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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

**36 Main Street**

**Historical Narrative**

Period. Lawrence Park had offices on Beacon Street in Boston from at least 1905 - 1929, lived in the house with his wife Minna until his death when it was conveyed to his daughter and son in law, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Skinner who occupied the property until at least 1977. The house became part of the Lawrence Academy campus c. 2000 and is now the residence of the headmaster and his family. The former carriage house, also built c. 1829, remains across the street at 27 Main Street (MHC #21).

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**Town**  
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**Form No.**

36 Main Street



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220 Morrissey Boulevard  
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Community Groton  
Property Address  
36 Main Street

Area(s)  
Y

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 ☒ X

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 Park House at 36 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. John G. Park (b. c. 1801) received the house in 1829 as a wedding gift from his father, the stone mason and builder, Stuart J. Park (b. 1773). The builder, according to Virginia May, was Captain Peter Nutting, who built two others with an identical plan nearby, possibly one at 47 Main Street (MHC #18). The house was originally located on the west side of Main Street, had a single chimney and was painted white according to Caleb Butler's field notes from 1829-30. Many Park family members were involved in carving gravestones in Groton's cemetery as well as other cemeteries around the region. John G. Park served as Groton's town clerk from 1834-36 and representative to the Massachusetts General Court in 1836 and 1838 and is recorded in tax valuations as the owner of \$3,500 in real property and \$5,500 in stocks, a great deal of personal wealth. He is listed in census schedules as a farmer despite his gentlemanly status. Mr. Park is depicted as the owner on the 1875 Beers atlas which also shows that he owned the parcel across the street where the house would ultimately be relocated in 1906. A newspaper article from 1845 notes he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Worcester & Nashua Railroad and participated in the pre-construction planning. The building's associations with historic commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade, surviving historic exterior materials and architect designed 1906 Classical Revival additions make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship.