

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 114 17 USGS Quad Y Area(s) 18, 215 Form Number

Town

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 47 Main Street

Historic Name Park, Stuart J. House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1812

Source May, "Groton Houses"

Style/Form Federal, Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Peter Nutting, builder (?)

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

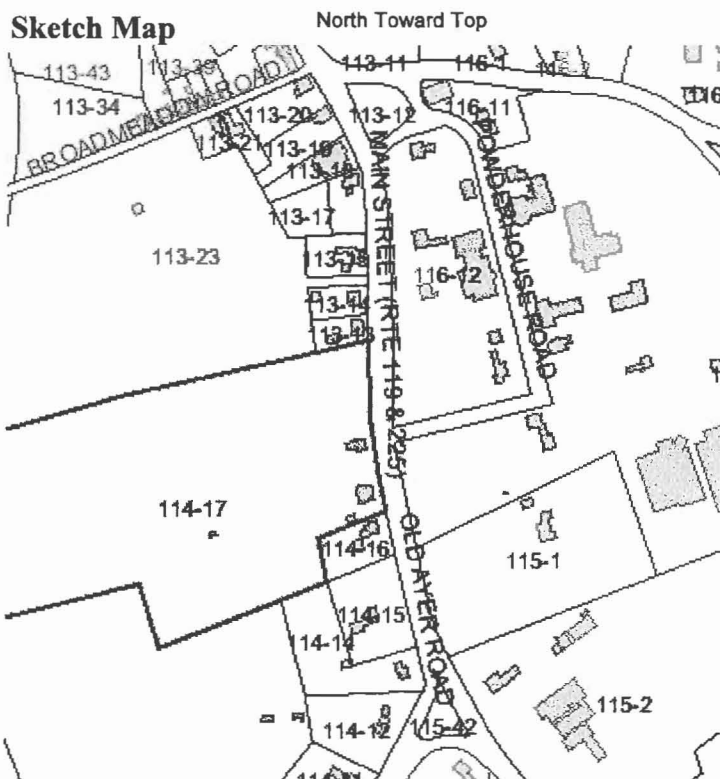
Condition Good

Moved no ☐ yes ☒ Date 1899

Acreage 1.25

Setting Town Center - Main Street

Sketch Map



BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * 47 Main Street is a ridge-hipped, 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay form with elements of the Federal style and a rear addition of 2 stories
- * Federal style elements in the facade include the symmetrical fenestration, molded cornice and corner pilasters
- * Windows in the main block are 12/12 double-hung sash with beaded trim; the rear addition is lit by 6/6 double-hung sash and has a secondary entry at the basement level
- * The ornate center entry has a classical surround with entablature, pilasters, fanlight and sidelights
- * Two stout brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the side slopes of the roof; a third slimmer chimney occupies the rear of the roof of the addition
- * The house is close to Main Street and the lot adjoins the Lawrence Academy ball field
- * The Federal style house has a more refined design than some others from the period due to the corner pilasters and highly articulated center entry, although these may have been added during the early 20th century

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 Stuart J. Park House was built c. 1812, possibly by Peter Nutting according to Virginia May. Mr. Park was a descendant of the Park family of gravestone carvers and stone masons and was taxed in 1847 for possession of over \$20,000 in real and personal property, a great deal for Groton at the time. Stuart J. Park may have been responsible, according to Whipple's "Academy Days", for construction of the stone foundation of the original 1792 Groton Academy building. Stuart J. Park, a mason, farmer, builder and architect, also built the New Hampshire State house in 1819, stone jails in Portland Me. in 1798, Northampton in 1801, Windsor, Vt., Worcester, Charlestown in 1803 and Concord in 1810. Mr. Park also built the Middlesex lock and canal system in 1813, the Lowell Railroad in 1832, the mill dam in Boston from Beacon Street to Brighton which was completed in 1822 and the Charlestown dry docks in addition to serving in the Massachusetts State Legislature from 1837-1840. Park Street in Boston was said by Chase and Gabel to have been named for him in 1834. Mr. Park was listed in the 1855 census as an 82-year-old farmer living with his wife Catherine. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 indicate he had a horse and 4 cows. The heirs of Stuart J. Park sold the house to William Giles who sold to Dr. Gilson in 1885 who sold to Frank F. Woods in 1886 who sold it to Mr. Palmer in 1889. The 1889 atlas depicts Shelby Sawyer as the occupant but not the owner. Mr. Sawyer is listed in the 1888 resident directory as a manufacturer of furniture living on Main Street and may have rented the house from one of the short term owners. It was moved in either 1889 or 1899 by Moses Palmer who occupied the house with his relatives Edna and Frank H. Palmer, a farmer, in 1918 according to the resident directory from that year. The original location of the building was at or near the current site of 30 Old Ayer Road. The Palmers added bay windows, double leaf front doors and created separate living spaces. Florence and Helen Thompson, alumnae of Lawrence Academy were later owners and again remodeled the house in unspecified ways but probably returned it to its Federal style design. Prior to retiring here, the sisters

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Previous GHS survey; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 35, 73; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1855, 1865 state census; Whipple, Academy Days, p. 112; Chase and Gabel, "Gravestone Chronicles", pp. 307-337; 1875 and 1889 atlases; 1856 Walling map; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; Stuart J. Park. Obituary in the Amherst, NH Farmer's Cabinet, August 24, 1859; Green, Vol. 3, pp. 146-151;

**** 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.