

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

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

*(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.*

<b>Address</b>	98 Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Dana, Judge Samuel House
<b>Uses: Present</b>	Residential/Institutional
<b>Original</b>	Residential
<b>Date of Construction</b>	1793

**Style/Form** Federal

**Exterior Material:**  
**Foundation** Granite  
**Wall/Trim** Wood clapboard  
**Roof** Asphalt shingles  
**Outbuildings/secondary structure**  
 Stone post and wood rail fence; granite steps

Rear addition, c. 1970

**Moved** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date**

**Setting** Town Center, on L.A. campus

Sketch Map

North Toward Top

113-12

113-19

113-16

113-23

113-14

113-12

114-17

116-11

116-12

116-13

CHURCH STREET

MAIN STREET (RTE 119 & 225)

POWDERHOUSE ROAD

SHEEDY LANE

LOWE'S

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.*

- \* Dana House is a Federal style, 5x3-bay, ridge-hipped, 2 1/2-story building with a 2-story ell attached to the east (rear)
- \* Ornamental features consist of the slim corner boards, beltcourse, highly articulated cornice with modillions and dentils, symmetrical fenestration in the façade and the gabled central pavilion
- \* The west-facing center entry has a classical surround consisting of a pediment, fanlight and pilasters
- \* Windows are primarily 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim
- \* A single internal brick chimney rises from the south roof slope
- \* Granite curbs, posts, two short flights of stone steps and two locally unusual earthen stepped terraces are integrated into the hill that elevates the house above the road; a stone post and wood rail fence lines the house on the Church Street side
- \* The house is located close to Main Street on the Lawrence Academy campus, the owner of the building and is just south of the First Parish Church, perhaps the most conspicuous residential location in the town center
- \* The refined design of the façade, including the pavilion and beltcourse which are rare in Groton, further distinguish the property

### 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 Judge Samuel Dana House was built c. 1793, two years before Mr. Dana's (1767-1835) marriage to Rebecca Barrett of New Ipswich, NH. He was a native of Groton, a founding subscriber of Lawrence Academy and one of two lawyers in town in 1798 (the other was Timothy Bigelow, each with two students). Judge Dana operated the town's first post office in the building from 1800 until 1804, was a member of the Massachusetts State Senate in 1803, 1814-15, served on the committee to alter the state constitution in 1820-21 and was simultaneously the chief justice of the circuit court of common pleas. He served as the town moderator in 1794 among additional public posts and moved in 1815 to his new house at 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). Judge Dana was the son of Reverend Samuel Dana, minister of the First Parish Church during the Revolutionary War although he was dismissed for his Tory sentiment. The 1832 Butler map of Groton depicts William F. Brazer as the occupant and Butler's notes describe the building as being painted white. Dr. Green notes Mr. Brazer worked as a storekeeper near the Congregational Church and, along with Elijah Whiton of 163 Main Street (MHC #6), founded in 1815 the Union Engine Company to fight fires in Groton Center. Dr. Green also notes that Dr. James Wilson and his wife Elizabeth occupied the house with the Danas from 1828-30 while working for Dr. Bancroft. A year after Judge Dana's death in 1835, the Lawrence Academy trustees bought Dana House for \$2000 for use as preceptor's house - a purpose it served until at least 1847. Illustrations from c. 1820, 1838, 1847 and historic photos indicate the house has changed little since its construction. The building has served as teacher housing and the school infirmary since its purchase in 1836. Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1906 depict an attached barn at the rear of the house. A rear addition was made c. 1970. The original 1792 Groton Academy building and its 1868 successor stood immediately to the south. The former location of the school building is now vacant.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

LA History, pp. 47, 398; Butler, pp. 234, 124; Whipple, 225, 343, 345; Interview with Richard Jeffers, 1/06; Green, Vol. 1, Chapter XII, pp. 6-7, Vol. II, p. 20-34, 393-396, Vol. 3, p. 24; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; 1856 Walling map; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 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

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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

23

86 Main Street – Dana House



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton

Property Address

~~86~~ Main Street  
98

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: **X** A B **X** 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 house at 86 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Judge Samuel Dana House was built c. 1793, two years before Mr. Dana's (1767-1835) marriage to Rebecca Barrett of New Ipswich, NH. He was a native of Groton, a founding subscriber of Lawrence Academy and one of two lawyers in town in 1798. Judge Dana operated the town's first post office in the building from 1800 until 1804, was a member of the Massachusetts State Senate in 1803, 1814-15, served on the committee to alter the state constitution in 1820-21 and was simultaneously the chief justice of the circuit court of common pleas. He served as the town moderator in 1794 among additional public posts and moved in 1815 to his new house at 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). The building's associations with historic educational and civic activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade with colossal pavilion, the surviving historic exterior materials and architectural details make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.