

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 19 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 15, 216

Town Groton
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 103 Main Street
Historic Name Ridgeway - Capell Duplex
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential
Date of Construction 1805
Source Previous deed research by GHS

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage, c. 1920

Major Alterations (with dates)

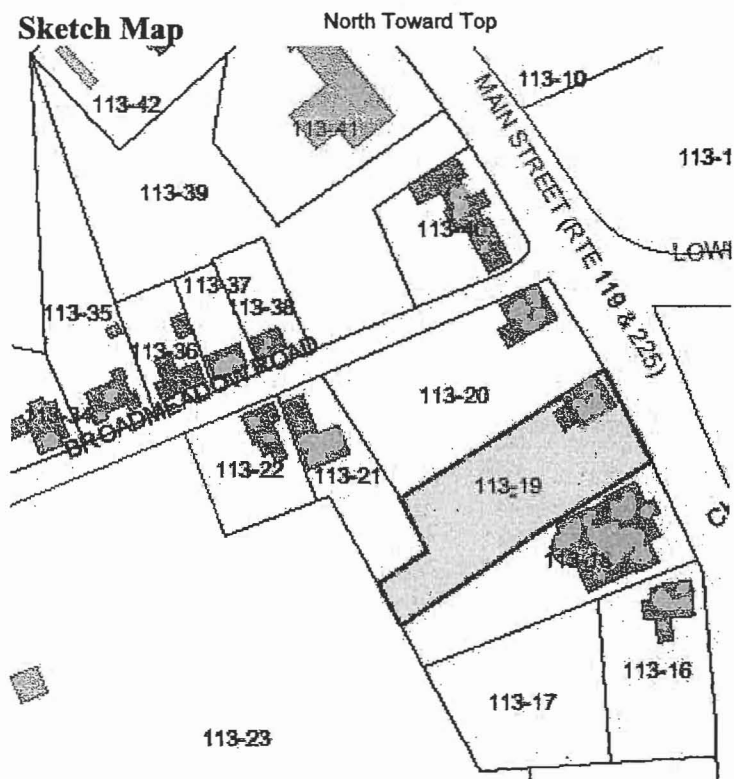
Condition Good

Moved no ☒ yes ☐ Date

Acreage Approx. 1

Setting Main Street - Town Center

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 Ridgeway-Capell Duplex is a 2 1/2-story double house with its gable end toward the street; entrances to the building exist on the north, south and west (street) elevations which have, respectively, 5, 4 and 5 bays; secondary masses include the three pedimented entry porches and the rear ell of one story
- * Federal style design elements are the triangular gable ornament with multiple pane windows, corner boards, molded cornice and closed gable
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with hoods over those on the first story and beaded trim above
- * Brick chimneys rise from the front and rear of the roof ridge, the rear being the larger
- * The detached garage has a low-pitched ridge-hipped roof, square ventilator in the center and wood clapboard walls; modern roll-up garage doors access the three bays
- * The house is close to Main Street and has a triangular gable ornament similar to that on the house at 52 Hollis Street; the double house plan is a locally rare example from the period

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.

James Ridgeway and John Capell Jr. first occupied this double house, a system of tandem ownership that endured until at least 1889. John Capell Jr. was probably the son of the West Groton miller who built mills in 1793 on the current site of the H&V paper mill on Townsend Road. Dr. Green describes Mr. Ridgeway as a clockmaker and silversmith who lived on Main Street and built the clock in the First Parish steeple in the spring of 1809. He came from Worcester and advertised in paper there as goldsmith and jeweler from Boston. He lived in Groton from c. 1806-1817 and later moved to Keene, NH. The 1832 map of Groton depicts Mrs. Capell as the owner and tax records from 1847 list Betsy Capell as the owner of 1/2 a house. John Smith is listed in Butler's field notes of 1828-29 as the owner of the second half of the house which is described as being painted white. Mrs. Capell remained until at least 1855 when census records list her as a resident along with her relatives Sarah (61 years of age) and Catherine (57 years of age). The same census schedule describes Dexter Blanchard, a co-occupant of the building, as a 58-year-old cabinet maker living with his wife Charlotte, daughter Frances and two boarders. In 1875 and 1889, Dexter Blanchard and Abigail Abbott shared ownership according to the Beers and Walker atlases but these names fail to appear in the 1888 resident directory, however, tax records from 1889 list the Abigail Abbott estate and the Dexter Blanchard estate as each owning 1/2 a house. Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1906 depict the house as a double residence and show a detached shed in the rear yard. According to local researchers working in 1967, uses of the house other than the residential have included a milliner's shop, cabinet shop, dental office, doctor's office and a tea room. Amy Wright operated a lunch room on Main Street according to the 1928 resident directory which may have been the tea room referred to in previous research.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Previous deed research; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1856 Walling map; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1888, 1918, 1929 resident directories; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1855, 1865 state census 1888 resident directory; Green, Vol. 2, p. 399; "Groton Plantation", p. 14; F. M. Boutwell, "People and Their Homes in Groton, Massachusetts in Olden Times", p. 14; 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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

103
105 Main Street

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
103 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: **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 103 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. James Ridgeway and John Capell Jr. first occupied this double house, a system of tandem ownership that endured until at least 1889. John Capell Jr. was probably the son of the West Groton miller who built mills in 1793 on the current site of the H&V paper mill. Dr. Green describes Mr. Ridgeway as a clockmaker and silversmith who lived on Main Street and built the clock in the First Parish steeple in the spring of 1809. He came from Worcester and advertised in paper there as goldsmith and jeweler from Boston. He lived in Groton from c. 1806-1817 and later moved to Keene, NH. The 1832 map of Groton depicts Mrs. Capell as the owner and tax records from 1847 list Betsy Capell as the owner of 1/2 a house. John Smith is listed in Butler's field notes of 1828-29 as the owner of the second half of the house which is described as being painted white. The building's associations with historic commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade, the historic multiple family use, 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.