

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 20 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 14

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 113 Main Street  
Historic Name Jennison, Martin House  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction 1803  
Source Tercentenary Booklet

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick, granite

Wall/Trim Brick end walls, wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

New wood clapboards, windows, c. 2000

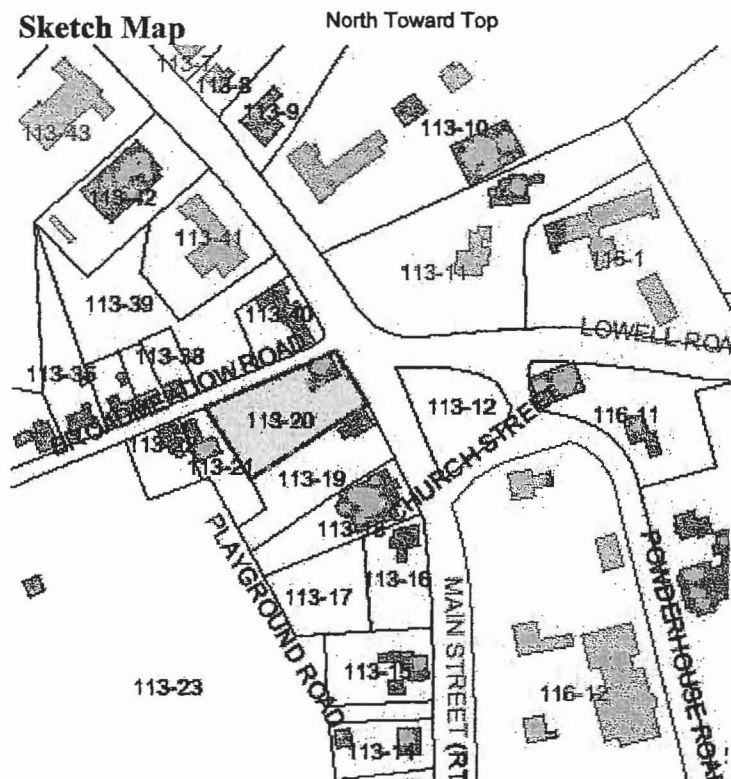
Condition Excellent

Moved no ☒ yes ☐ Date

Acreage .75

Setting Town center, Main Street

### 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 Jennison House is a 3-story, pyramidal hipped, 5x3-bay form with brick end walls and wood clapboard façade; Federal style elements include the corner boards, molded cornice and symmetrical fenestration in the 3-story façade
- \* The center entry is recessed and is lit by sidelights; the classical surround is composed of a broad entablature, pilasters with molded caps and bases; a secondary entry is through the north brick end wall which is capped by a segmental brick arch
- \* Windows in the façade are 8/8 double-hung sash that were installed c. 2000; windows in the side walls are 6/6 double-hung sash except for the single sash in the third story of the north elevation which is a 12/12 unit and may represent the original window configuration
- \* Four tall brick interior chimneys mark the corners of the roof
- \* The setting is at the corner of Main Street and Broadmeadow Road, both immediately adjacent to the house, and across from the busy intersection of Main Street and state route 40
- \* Three story Federal style design in Groton is limited to this house and its neighbor, 117 Main Street, which lacks the vertical emphasis in the façade

### 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.*

Martin Jennison built the house at 113 Main Street c. 1803 as a hotel according to Dr. Green. Tickets for balls held by law students (referred to on the tickets as Ball Managers) in the third floor, called Union Hall, were sold in 1804 and 1807 possibly to raise money or just as recreation. The third floor was also used by the Masons' Lodge from 1847-1870 and other civic groups. A Mr. Page operated a tavern in the building from c. 1812-1818, using the upper floor as a ballroom. Miss Susan Prescott, headmistress of a private girls' school later located at 14 Main Street (MHC #20), began her teaching here around 1820. The town's first Congregational minister, John Todd, occupied the house in 1826 and held meetings of 300 parishioners in the building until their church (218 Main Street, MHC #195) was finished in 1827. The 1828-29 field notes by Butler for his 1832 map list Mary Hemenway as the owner and describes the house as a three-story brick-end house with four chimneys and a yellow façade, the same as the the current configuration. Dr. Coale lived in the house with Elizer Wright in 1826-27. The Baptist Society met here from 1831-1832 prior to building their church at the corner of Main and School Streets (264 Main Street, MHC #154) in 1842. Charles Gerrish lived here from c. 1847 until at least 1889 according to the Butler map and the Walker Atlas from those years. Mr. Gerrish was a storekeeper across Main Street from this location in a building now located at 118 Hollis Street (MHC #103). Mr. Gerrish was listed in the 1855 census as a 38-year-old merchant living with his wife Sarah, 2 children and 2 clerks as boarders. Green notes that the building was used as a tavern run by Hall & Knight from c. 1885-1891. Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1906 depict the building as a house with an attached barn at the rear. By 1935, the house was occupied by Dr. Harold W. Ayres, a Harvard Medical School graduate and native of Somerville, Ma who came to Groton in 1913, served as the school doctor for 30 years and operated a sanitarium in the top of Gibbet Hill, now a stone ruin originally intended for use as a residence by William Bancroft of Main Street. Dr. Ayres' wife Pauline painted primitive style artwork on the ballroom walls

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Tercentenary Booklet, pp. 90-91, 25; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; Sawyer, "People and Places of Groton", p. 99; "More People and Places of Groton", p. 131; Dr. Green, Vol. 2, p. 63, Vol. 3, pp. 22, 184; resident directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; 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

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**Town**  
Groton

**Area(s)**  
**Form No.**

**Historical Narrative**      **113 Main Street**

in the third floor. Dr. Ayres (spelled Ayers in the 1928 resident directory) lived and practiced on Lowell Road and at the hospital on Gibbet Hill where he and his patients grew fruit, raised chickens and cows to feed patients. Also, he was a founder of the Groton Rotary Club.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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113 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  
113 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 house at 113 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. Martin Jennison built the house c. 1803 as a hotel according to Dr. Green. Tickets for balls held by law students (referred to on the tickets as Ball Managers) in the third floor, called Union Hall, were sold in 1804 and 1807 possibly to raise money or just as recreation. The third floor was also used by the Masons' Lodge from 1847-1870 and other civic groups. A Mr. Page operated a tavern in the building from c. 1812-1818, using the upper floor as a ballroom. Miss Susan Prescott, headmistress of a private girls' school later located at 14 Main Street (MHC #20), began her teaching here around 1820. The town's first Congregational minister, John Todd, occupied the house in 1826 and held meetings of 300 parishioners in the building until their church (218 Main Street, MHC #xx) was finished in 1827. The 1828-29 field notes by Butler for his 1832 map list Mary Hemenway as the owner and describes the house as a three-story brick-end house with four chimneys and a yellow façade. The Baptist Society met here from 1831-1832 prior to building their church at the corner of Main and School Streets (264 Main Street, MHC #154) in 1842. The building's associations with historic commercial and religious activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical and locally unusual three-story façade, 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.