

FORM B - Building

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

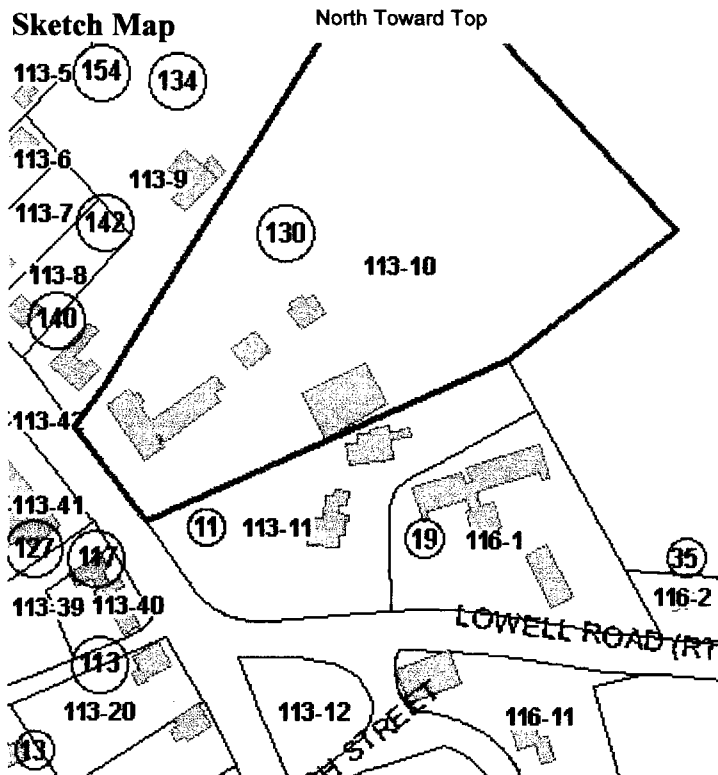
Map and Lot # 113 10 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 11,402-404

Town Groton Center
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)



Recorded by Sanford Johnson
Organization Groton Historical Commission
Date (month/year) 12/07

Address 130 Main Street
Historic Name Groton Inn
Uses: Present Commercial
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1787
Source May, pp. 178-227
Style/Form Federal
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Unknown
Wall/Trim Wood clapboards
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure
Detached barns and sheds

Major Alterations (with dates)
Main building enlarged, c. 1800; some windows replaced, c. 2000; porch added, c. 1900

Condition Fair
Moved no yes Date
Acreage 8.49
Setting Town Center

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 Groton Inn is a 10x2-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story form with a 2-story perpendicular rear addition of 5 bays at the southeast corner; An enclosed porch has been added to the southwest junction of the Inn and the rear ell; The façade is arranged in two groups of five symmetrical bays that represent two houses moved together c. 1800; An open porch supported by Doric columns on granite plinths covers the entire first story of the facade

* Decorative elements of the Federal style design include the molded cornice, corner boards, beaded window trim and gable returns; The 2 front entries are located in the centers of each five bay section and have pilasters beside the door and 5-pane transoms above; Brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge at the ends of the main block and from the center; 6 gabled dormers occupy the front slope of the roof

* The detached early 20th century, 5-bay brick garage has a low-pitched gable roof with pyramidal ventilator at the center; Windows are 6/1 modern double-hung sash with openings arched at the tops; the center vehicle entry has been filled in with a pedestrian door

* 2 additional detached buildings of 2 1/2 stories, perhaps former guesthouses and now rental apartments, occupy the back yard and have wood clapboard exteriors

* The Groton Inn occupies a prominent location at the corner of Lowell Road and has views of Gibbet Hill to the east; The Inn is a unique property in Groton for its scale, former and current use and site at the base of Gibbet Hill; It is in fair to good condition

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 history of the Groton Inn is documented on a National Register of Historic Places nomination filed 8/3/1976 and on a previous MHC inventory form. Also, May devotes a chapter to it in "Groton Houses", pp. 178-227. Reverend Samuel Dana had the house built in 1787. The 1781 owner was the tavernkeeper Jonathan Keep who is likely the person who doubled the house in size during the Revolution. By 1832, the owner was Joseph N. Hoar and the building labeled a tavern of 2 stories, 3 chimneys and 10 windows across the façade. The color of the tavern was white. By 1847, the owners appear from the Butler map to have been John and Sumner Boynton. By 1856, it was again owned by Joseph N. Hoar and labeled a hotel. He kept his large family here (most employed as housekeepers) as well as a carpenter and shoe cutter who were boarders in 1855 and a laborer and a clerk in 1865. From 1875-1889, it was known as the Central House under Mr. Hoar's ownership and that of his three daughters afterward. The 1888 resident directory lists Lilla and Lizzie Hoar as the proprietors. Subsequent owners were Thomas Treadwell Farnsworth who ran it as a temperance house; additional landlords have been Daniel Hunt, James Minot Colburn, Charles H. Dodge and J. Harold Marriot. The 1930 map of Groton depicts Lucy Dodge as the owner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; Butler's 1829 field notes; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; Previous GHC Research; 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; Resident Directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; Dr. Green, Vol I, p. 4; 1930 Somes map; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" pp. 178-227;

**** 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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