

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

**Town** Groton  
**Place (neighborhood or village)**  
Groton Center

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" 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>	134 Main Street
<b>Historic Name</b>	Boynton -Gerrish House
<b>Uses: Present</b>	Antique Store
<b>Original</b>	Residential
<b>Date of Construction</b>	c. 1800

**Style/Form** Federal

**Exterior Material:**

## Foundation Brick

**Wall/Trim** Wood Clapboard; brick north end wall

**Roof** Asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached 19thc. Barn

### Major Alterations (with dates)

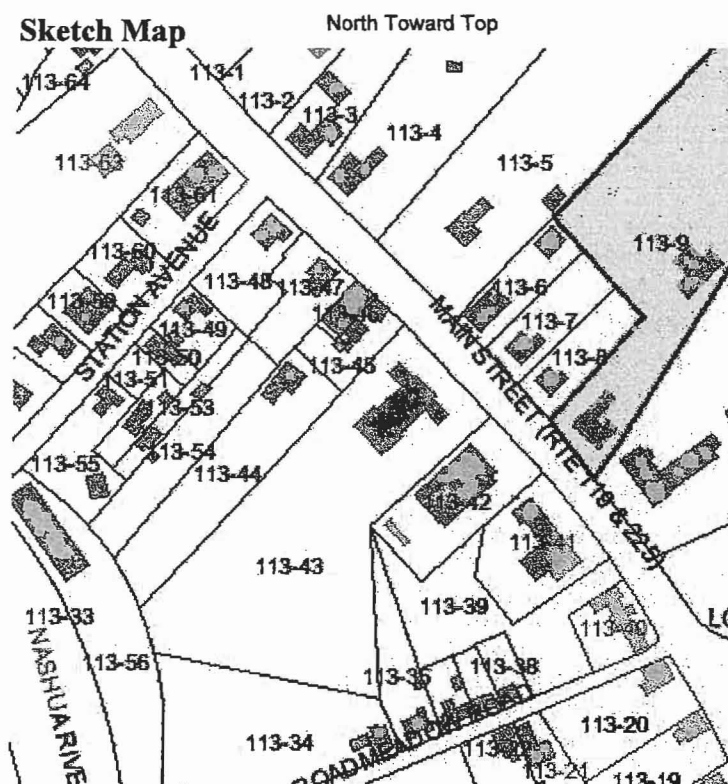
Two bays added to façade, c. 1840; bay windows, porch added, c. 1890

Condition Excellent

Moved no ☒ yes ☐ Date

**Acreage** 5.5

**Setting** Town Center-Main Street



**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 core of the house at 134 Main Street is a 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay, Federal style design; sizable 19th or early 20th century additions were done to the main block to form a modified U-shaped plan; the north end has been extended parallel to the main block by 2 bays; this 2-bay section was enlarged with an addition to the east, or perpendicular to the main block forming an ell toward the rear; the southeast corner was also enlarged with a perpendicular 4-bay ell toward the rear to create the asymmetrical U-plan; secondary masses attached to the house include the 2-story full-width porch with balustrades at both levels and the 3-sided 1-story bay window lighting the south side elevation
- \* Decorative features include the corner boards, Doric columns supporting the porch, molded cornice, classical surround with pilasters and entablature at the secondary entry in the south elevation, the symmetrical fenestration in the 5-bay façade of the building's core and the pilasters and entablature at the corners of the bay window
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim; four internal brick chimneys rise from the north and south ends of the main block and from the roof ridge of the north ell
- \* A detached barn in the rear appears to have been built in the 19th century and has rectangular and segmental arched vehicle openings converted to pedestrian use to accommodate clientele of the antique store housed in the barn; the roof is gabled; walls are wood clapboard; windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and fixed multiple pane sash
- \* Due to the numerous additions, the house is larger than most other Federal style buildings in the town center and occupies a prominent site on Main Street

### 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.*

Calvin Boynton worked as a blacksmith and was an early owner of the house at 134 Main Street according to the 1832 Butler map. Mr. Butler's filed notes for the map describe a house painted white with 8 chimneys and five windows across the façade, two fewer than there are currently. Mr. Boynton's shop (not listed in 1830 tax valuations) was located northwest of the house and was the site of construction of the fire engine "Torrent" in 1802 by the engineer and law student Loammi Baldwin Jr. Alden Warren later ran the blacksmith shop. Subsequent owners according to historic maps included Mr. Boynton's relatives John and Sumner in 1847 who owned separate parcels and buildings according to tax records which suggest John Boynton as the owner of this house which was valued at \$3,600, a more appropriate valuation for such a large house than the \$1,700 valuation for Sumner Boynton's farm. Dr. Green lists John Boynton as a representative to the Massachusetts General Court in 1851. Mrs. Boynton was the occupant from c. 1855-1876 and appears in census records from 1855 and 1865 as Elizabeth D. Boynton, born c. 1807. Mrs. Boynton lived with her mother Patty and in 1865 with an "agent" named Daniel McCaine and his wife. Sanborn fire insurance maps depict the house with its complex plan, brick north end wall and the attached barn in 1906. Everett B. Gerrish was the owner by 1930 and he is listed in resident directories as the husband of Vyra but no occupation is given.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Samuel A. Green, "The Old Stores and Post Office of Groton", 1884; Green, Historical Series, Vol. 2, p. 1; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; 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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

134 Main Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton

Property Address

134 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 134 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. Calvin Boynton worked as a blacksmith and was an early owner of the house at 134 Main Street according to the 1832 Butler map. Mr. Butler's filed notes for the map describe a house painted white with 8 chimneys and five windows across the façade, two fewer than there are currently. Mr. Boynton's shop (not listed in 1830 tax valuations) was located northwest of the house and was the site of construction of the fire engine "Torrent" in 1802 by the engineer and law student Loammi Baldwin Jr. The building's associations with historic commercial and small scale industrial activity establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's expanded façade, the surviving historic exterior materials, architectural details and highly complex plan make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.