

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 4 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 5

Town Groton  
Place (neighborhood or village)  
Groton Center

### Photograph

(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.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 164 Main Street  
Historic Name Lawrence, Luther-Shumway, Eliel Hous  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction 1811  
Source Dr. Green, Vol. 3, p. 219

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached outbuilding (not visible)

Major Alterations (with dates)

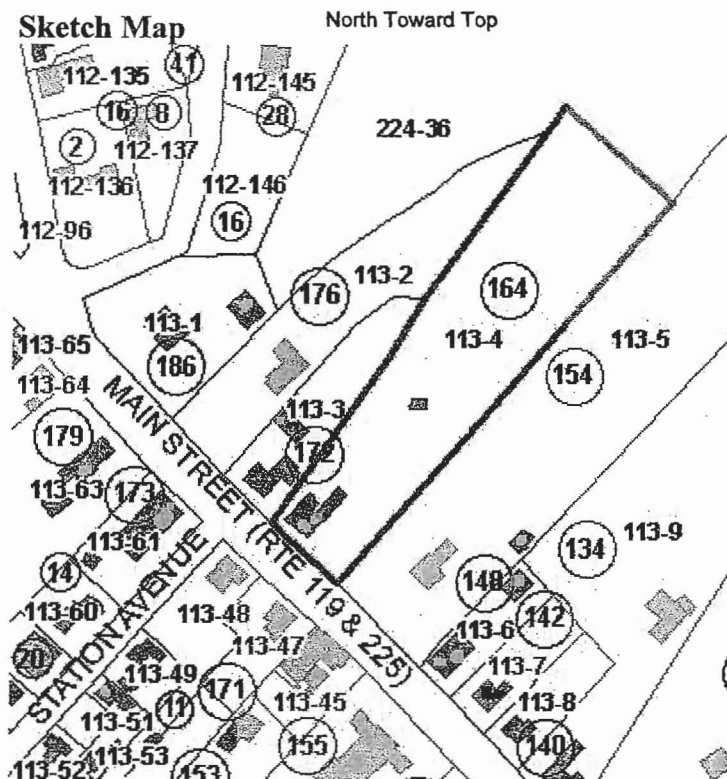
Condition Good

Moved no ☒ yes ☐ Date

Acreage 3

Setting Town Center

### Sketch Map



## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

- \* 164 Main Street is a 5x5-bay, 2-story, ridge-hipped, Federal style house built on a nearly square plan with a rear addition of 2 stories and a 2-story carriage barn behind the addition
- \* Decorative features include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, corner pilasters with molded caps and bases, molded cornice and four tall brick chimneys with inward tapering caps at the four corners of the main block; the center entry has a classical surround composed of a denticulated cornice, frieze and architrave, pilasters flanking the door and a fanlight above; distinctive shutters with quarter-round tops have been applied to the entry; a secondary entry with a simple transom and also flanked by pilasters and gives access through the center of the south elevation; this is capped by a hip-roofed Victorian hood with carved brackets
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with projecting beaded trim
- \* The gabled rear addition of 2 bays' depth is clad in wood clapboards as is the gabled carriage barn which has swinging vehicle doors in the south elevation, frieze windows and paired 6/6 double-hung sash as well as a single unit in the far eastern end of the south elevation
- \* Interior features are typical of Federal style homes in the town with classical inspired fireplaces surrounds, trim and double-pile floor plan; The design of the house is comparable to the more refined Federal examples in Groton center such as 47-49 Main Street; the lot is larger than most others in the Center and is lined at the southern edge by a picket fence

### 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 original occupant of the parcel at 164 Main Street may have been the baker Charles Quailles, whose sign read "Gingerbread Cake and Biscit Sold Here", and his wife Susanna who worked to defend Jewett's Bridge in Pepperell with 39 other women during the Revolutionary War. Their house may be the rear portion of the current house which was built c. 1811. The land was originally owned by Captain James Parker in the 17th century, an early Groton settler who was born in Woburn in 1649 and was killed with his wife by Native Americans in 1694. The first owner of this house was the lawyer Luther Lawrence from 1811 until he moved to Lowell in 1831, after which time he became state representative and mayor of that city. Mr. Lawrence, born in 1778, was the oldest son of Revolutionary War soldier Samuel Lawrence, graduated from Harvard College in 1801, studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow and married his sister Lucy Bigelow in 1805. Mr. Lawrence, representative to the Massachusetts General Court from 1812-1822 and in 1829-1830, and trustee in 1811 of Lawrence Academy was taxed in 1830 for his ownership of \$5,000 in real property and \$6,000 in personal property, a great deal more than the average in both cases. Caleb Butler's field notes from 1828-29 indicate this house was painted white and had a double front, an inscrutable notation. Mr. Lawrence's funeral in 1839 occurred in Lowell and proceeded to Groton where residents lined both sides of the street to honor their townsman. Eliel Shumway was a subsequent long-term owner from c. 1846-1889. State census information from 1855 and 1865 reveals that Mr. Shumway was a native of Vermont born c. 1810, worked as farmer and his wife's name was Lucy. They boarded a dentist named Charles E. Thompson and later, four women not members of the family who were listed as housekeepers. Non-population Census Schedules indicate he owned 25 acres, 2 horses and a cow in addition to a small amount of agricultural produce. Non-population Census Schedules from 1880 show he had 150 apple trees. Mrs. Emma P. Shumway lived in the house after her husband died and was responsible, in 1900, for donating Shumway Field on Main Street to Lawrence

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

Previous Research by GHS; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1918 and 1929 resident directories; May, "Groton Plantation" p. 82; Green, Vol. 2 pp. 373-378, Vol. 3, pp. 219, 400; Repertory Newspaper (Boston), 7/19/1805; Farmer's Cabinet (Amherst, NH Newspaper) 4/26/1839; 1886 Modified Burleigh Bird's Eye View of Groton;

**\*\* 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    | Property Address |
|---------|------------------|
| Groton  |                  |
| Area(s) | Form No.         |

164 Main Street      Historical Narrative

Academy in 1941 when it was put to use as a multi family residence occupied in part by Henrietta Chase and Elizabeth Lowe, a music teacher. Drs. Elizabeth and Woodrow Lewis bought the house in 1941 and set up dual medical practices in the building, evidence of which remains today in the form of built in medical equipment and a surgical light in one room. After graduating from Tufts University, the couple came to Groton to raise children and practice family medicine for the next 60 years until their retirement in 2002. Dr. Woodrow Lewis served in the Army Air Corps in WWII.

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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

164 Main Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton  
Property Address  
164 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

The Federal Style house at 164 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The original occupant of the parcel at 164 Main Street may have been the baker Charles Quailes, whose sign read "Gingerbread Cake and Biscit Sold Here", and his wife Susanna who worked to defend Jewett's Bridge in Pepperell with 39 other women during the Revolutionary War. Their house may be the rear portion of the current house which was built in 1811. The land was originally owned by Captain James Parker in the 17th century, an early Groton settler who was born in Woburn in 1649 and was killed with his wife by Native Americans in 1694. The first owner of this house was the lawyer Luther Lawrence from 1811 until he moved to Lowell in 1831, after which time he became state representative and mayor of that city. Mr. Lawrence, born in 1783, was the oldest son of Revolutionary War soldier Samuel Lawrence, graduated from Harvard College in 1801, studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow and married his employer's sister Lucy Bigelow in 1805. Mr. Lawrence, representative to the Massachusetts General Court from 1812-1822 and in 1829-1830, and trustee in 1811 of Lawrence Academy was taxed in 1830 for his ownership of \$5,000 in real property and \$6,000 in personal property, a great deal more than the average in both cases. Caleb Butler's field notes from 1828-29 indicate this house was painted white. The building's associations with historic political activity establish its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the house and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship.