

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 2 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 356, 911

Town Groton3
 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 176 Main Street
 Historic Name Gen. Wm Bancroft House-Shawfieldmon
 Uses: Present Residential
 Original Residential
 Date of Construction 1903-1904
 Source Groton Landmark, April 25, 1903
 Style/Form Shingle

Architect/Builder C. H. Dodge, builder; F.F. Low, Arch.

Exterior Material:

Foundation Cobblestone

Wall/Trim Cobblestone and wood shingle

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Cobblestone entrance gateway

Major Alterations (with dates)

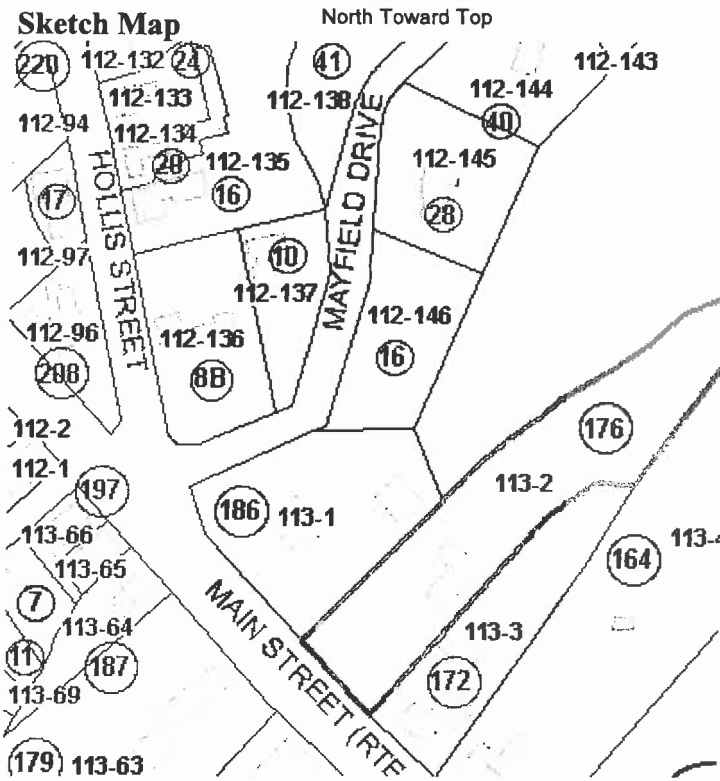
Garage attached, mid 20th c.

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.9

Setting Town Center



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/08

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 Bancroft House is an L-shaped, 2-story, 2x2-bay form with gambrel roof and modern garage attached to the northeast corner; the design has elements of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles
- * The exterior cladding consists of cobblestone construction in the first story and wood shingles above
- * Windows appear to be mainly 2/2 double-hung sash; those in the first story have granite lintels while the windows in the second story have plain wood trim; a diamond shaped sash occupies the front gambrel peak
- * The main entry is recessed into the cobblestone section of the first story façade
- * Additional ornament includes the flared course of shingles where the wood exterior cladding meets the cobblestone
- * The house is well maintained and may be unique in Groton for its locally rare cobblestone exterior
- * Entrance to the property is through a cobblestone gateway consisting of three piers of graduating height on each side of the opening in the stone wall; a granite capstone covers the cobblestone wall that lines 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.

Virginia May describes in her book "Groton Houses" that the builder of the William A. Bancroft house and gateway at 176 Main Street was Charles H. Dodge, (d. 1921), a native of West Groton, and later president of the C. H. Dodge Construction Co. with offices on Common Street and Devonshire Street in Boston in 1905. Mr. Dodge also built the Groton Public Library (MHC #146), Acton and Watertown Libraries, Wellesley College Art Museum, John Hancock Building on Devonshire Street, Boston and the Groton Water Co. Pumping Station, possibly the stone tower on Gibbet Hill and his own house on Pleasant Street in 1892. The Groton Landmark of April 25, 1903 describes the start of construction of the house and later editions of the newspaper describe the use of native cobbles. The H. E. Fletcher Granite Co. of Westford provided the granite capstones for the wall which was designed by F. F. Low of Boston, architect to the Boston Elevated Railway Company, a business General Bancroft (b. 1855) presided over starting in 1899. The land for the stone house was formerly occupied by General Bancroft's boyhood home, a Colonial Period building later divided in two and moved to 31 and 39 Court Street. General Bancroft, a Lawrence Academy and Harvard alumnus, Civil War veteran, lawyer, state legislator, mayor of Cambridge, brigadier general in the Spanish American War and president of the town's 250th anniversary celebration, lived here until c. 1915 when he inexplicably left town. He created a plaque for the stone gateway to commemorate his parents, Charles and Lydia Bancroft, former residents of the predecessor house where General Bancroft grew up. Prior to doing so, he had built the stone tower on the top of Gibbet Hill, formerly part of the parcel for 176 Main Street, that survives as a scenic ruin and is now part of the Gibbet Hill Farm property at 55 Lowell Road (MHC #157). The 1930 owner of the Stone Lodge on Main Street was Charles M. Raddin, a chauffeur.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Groton Houses, pp. 29, 53, 225; Groton Landmark, April 25, May 30, 1903; Groton at 350, pp. 43, 108, 130-131, 163; 1930 Somes map; Previous research; Who's Who in America, John W. Leonard, p. 83;

**** 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.
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



176 Main Street



176 Main Street, gateway