

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 64 USGS Quad Y Form Number 2

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 187 Main Street  
Historic Name Bancroft-Lawrence House  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction c. 1800  
Source Previous GHS deed research

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage, mid 20th c.

Major Alterations (with dates)

Ell built 1885; Dormer added, 2004

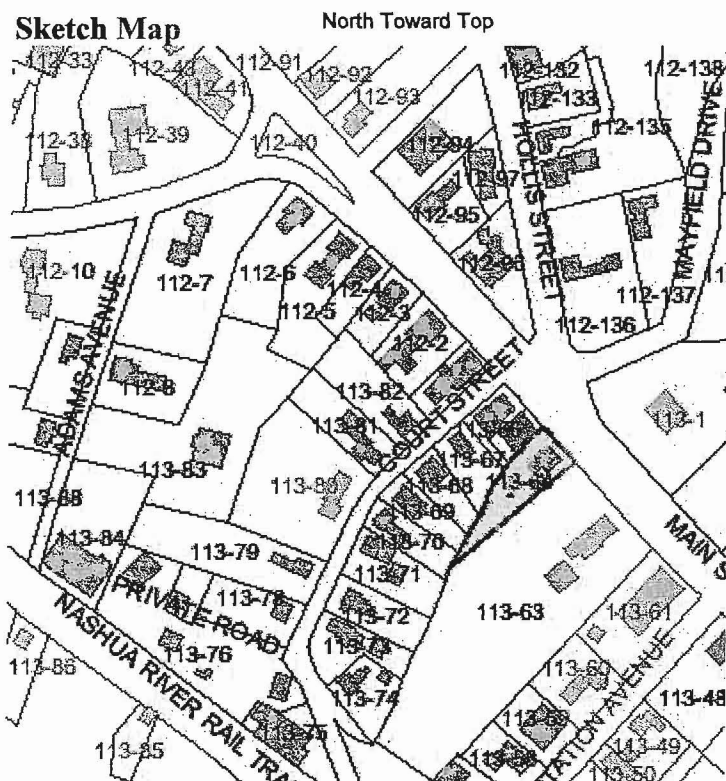
Condition Excellent

Moved no ☒ yes ☐ Date

Acreage .33

Setting Town center

### 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.*

- \* 187 Main Street is a 1 1/2-story, front-gabled, 5x2-bay form with gabled and shed dormers on both roof slopes
- \* Federal and Greek Revival style details include the molded cornice, symmetrical fenestration in the façade, gable returns and corner boards
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim
- \* The center entry has a classical surround ornamented with an entablature, pilasters and sidelights
- \* The detached garage is a front-gabled, 1-bay, wood clapboard building connected to the house via a walkway covered by a gabled roof
- \* The front gabled form is unusual in Groton although not unique; other examples are much larger and are located at 179 Main Street and 2 Farmers Row
- \* The front yard is separated from the immediately adjacent Main Street by a picket fence with split granite posts

### 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 1832 Butler map of Groton indicates Mrs. Eunice Lewis occupied the house. A former owner of 187 Main Street may have been Dr. Amos B. Bancroft in 1840, the first owner of 179 Main Street (MHC #148, built 1839) which is the neighbor to the south. The architectural forms suggest similar construction dates for the two houses although local historians indicate 1800 as the construction date for 187 Main Street. Walter Shattuck may also have been an owner in 1846 according to prior GHS research. Asa Robbins was depicted as the owner on the 1847 Butler map and was taxed in that year for ownership of a house valued at \$400, an appropriately small sum for the building. William F. Gragg is shown as the owner on the 1875 atlas. He paid tax on a small house and barn situated on 1/4 acre of land. The 1889 atlas shows that Asa Stillman Lawrence owned both this small house and the large mansion to the south. Mr. Lawrence was taxed, in addition to his two other houses, for ownership of the "Gragg House", the property being noted in tax records by the name of the former owner. A board recovered during the 1948 demolition of a barn read "George W. Lewis & Son built this extension May 2nd, 1885; Bill Ames helped raise it and drank up a gallon of cider - Rum". Carl A. P. Lawrence, Asa Stillman Lawrence's son, was the owner in 1967.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ continuation sheet

1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Resident Directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; Previous GHS deed research; Tax records, 1830-1889;

**\*\* 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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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187 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  
187 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 Greek Revival Style house at 187 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The 1832 Butler map of Groton indicates Mrs. Eunice Lewis occupied the house. A former owner of 187 Main Street may have been Dr. Amos Bancroft in 1840, the first owner of 179 Main Street (MHC #148, built 1839) which is the neighbor to the south. The architectural forms suggest similar construction dates for the two houses although local historians indicate 1800 as the construction date for 187 Main Street. Walter Shattuck may also have been an owner in 1846 according to prior GHC research. Asa Robbins was depicted as the owner on the 1847 Butler map and was taxed in that year for ownership of a house valued at \$400, an appropriately small sum for the building. The building's appearance on historic maps with multiple former owner names establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the small house demonstrates historic building trends for small scale residential construction and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship.