

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
114 11 551

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village)

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.

Address 24 Old Ayer Road

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1890

Source "Groton Houses", p. 35

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

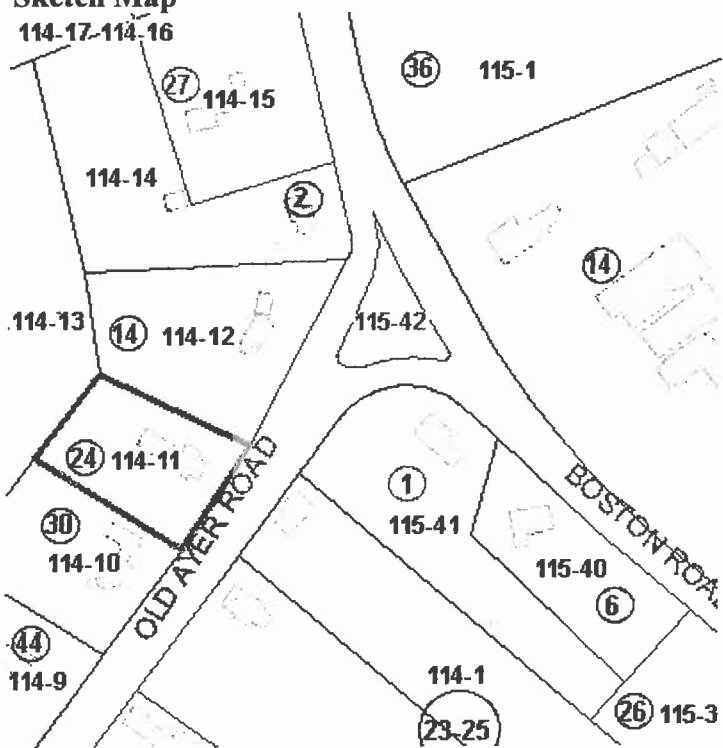
Acreage .8

Setting Rural

Roll Negative(s)

Sketch Map
114-17-114-16

North Toward Top



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 Victorian Eclectic style design of 24 Old Ayer Road has at the core of the complex massing a front-gabled block of 2 1/2 stories and 2x3 bays; this is expanded by the enclosed front porch, 1-story bay window in the façade, the 2 1/2-story gabled bay in the south side with 1 story bay window and the rear ell of 2 stories with open porch on the south side; a shed appears to be attached to the rear of the ell

* Decorative features are the bracketed eaves all around including at the eaves of the bay windows and in the porches, diamond pattern wood shingles in the front and south gable peaks, corner pilasters, molded cornice and frieze boards

* Windows are a combination of 2/1 double hung sash and narrower 1/1 units in the bays and in locations where sash are paired; all have prominent window hoods with small brackets underneath

* Two brick chimneys rise from the main block of the house and a third from the rear ell

* The house is well maintained and appears to retain most or all of its many architectural details; the scale is comparable to other Victorian Examples in this area just out of Groton Center and is similar in form and detail to its neighbors at 29 and 44 Old Ayer Road

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 site of the house at 24 Old Ayer Road was occupied until 1889 by the house now located at 47 Main Street (MHC #18). Frank F. Woods sold the Federal style S. J. Park House to Captain Moses Palmer who moved it to Main Street. Mr. Woods, a farmer who lived here until at least 1918 according to the resident directory from that year, then built the existing house shortly afterward. A subsequent owner was Dr. G. A. Morrill by 1930 according to Virginia May's book "Groton Houses". (Dr. Morrill is named G. H. Morrill on the 1930 map.) The resident directory indicates he was retired by that time. Subsequent owners were named Reggio, the family who lived here in the mid 20th century. Land was planted in hay according to the WPA map of 1939.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

"Groton Houses", p. 35, 70, 133; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; 1889 county atlas; 1939 WPA map 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.

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
24 Old Ayer Road

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

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

Potential historic district

Criteria: A B 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 Victorian Eclectic Style house at 24 Old Ayer Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. Frank F. Woods, a farmer who lived here until at least 1918 according to the resident directory from that year, built the existing house shortly after removing the Federal Style house now located at 47 Main Street in 1889. A subsequent owner was Dr. G. A. Morrill by 1930 according to Virginia May's book "Groton Houses". The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the building with its bracketed eaves all around including at the eaves of the bay windows and in the porches, diamond pattern wood shingles in the front and south gable peaks, corner pilasters, molded cornice and frieze boards make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

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.



24 Old Ayer Rd