

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 114 9 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 553

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.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 44 Old Ayer Road

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1890

Source Estimate

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite, cinderblock

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards, wood shingles

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Front porch added, c. 1950; rear addition, 2005

Condition Excellent

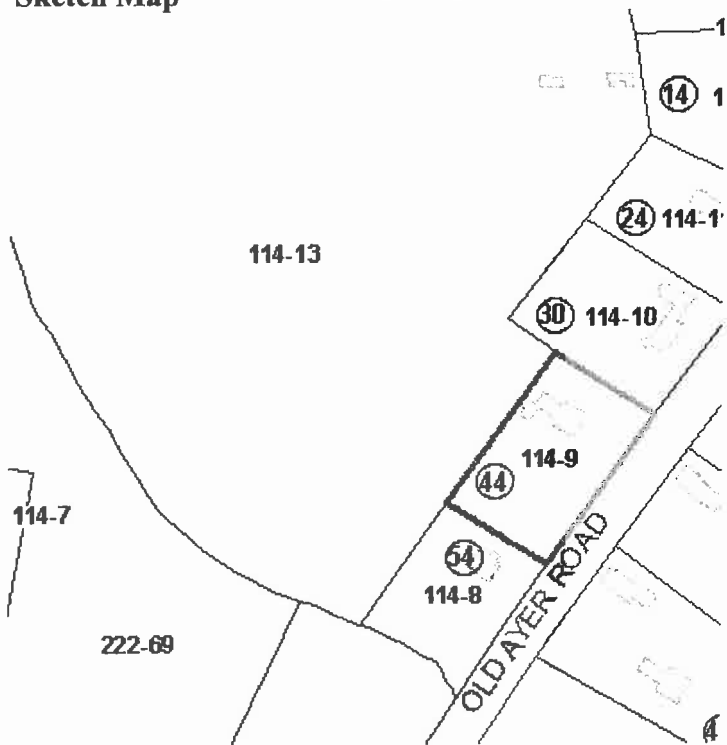
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1

Setting Rural

Sketch Map

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 house at 44 Old Ayer Road is a cross gabled Victorian Eclectic style design of 2 1/2 stories and 2x2 bays; a rear ell of 2 stories expands the plan to the rear; a cutaway entry porch with gabled roof and square piers with molded caps covers the corner entrance in the northeast corner of the facade
- * Details include the barge board, patterned wood shingles in the gable peaks which flare out from the wall at the junction between the attic level and the second story, corner boards and molded cornice
- * Windows are 2/1 double-hung sash that appear to be modern replacements; trim consists of a slim hood above the openings; fixed 2 and 3-pane sash fill openings in the gable peaks and a paired window lights the northeast corner of the first story of the secondary block
- * The side-hall entry is under the front porch and has plain trim
- * The house is of a scale, materials and refined design quality typical for this section of Old Ayer Road and is similar in form and detail to its neighbors at 24 and 29 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 house does not appear on the 1889 county atlas which, combined with the dates typical for its architectural features, suggests it was built slightly later. The first known owners were the heirs of Rebecca Torrey (b. c. 1845) whose ownership is reflected on the 1930 map of Groton. Miss Torrey, who worked as an assistant housekeeper in 1865 according to the state census from that year, was hostess or caretaker at the Groton Inn (MHC #11) in 1901 after the Hoar Sisters auctioned the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

"Groton Houses", p. 223; Groton map of 1930; 1889 Middlesex County Atlas; 1865 state census;

**** 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
44 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 44 Old Ayer Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. The first known owners were the heirs of Rebecca Torrey (b. c. 1845) whose ownership is reflected on the 1930 map of Groton. Miss Torrey, who worked as an assistant housekeeper in 1865 according to the state census from that year, was hostess or caretaker at the Groton Inn (MHC #11) in 1901 after the Hoar Sisters auctioned the property. The building's associations with historic personages in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the building's architectural details including the barge board, patterned wood shingles in the gable peaks which flare out from the wall at the junction between the attic level and the second story, corner boards and molded cornice make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Groton

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Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



44 Old Ayer Road