

FORM B - Building

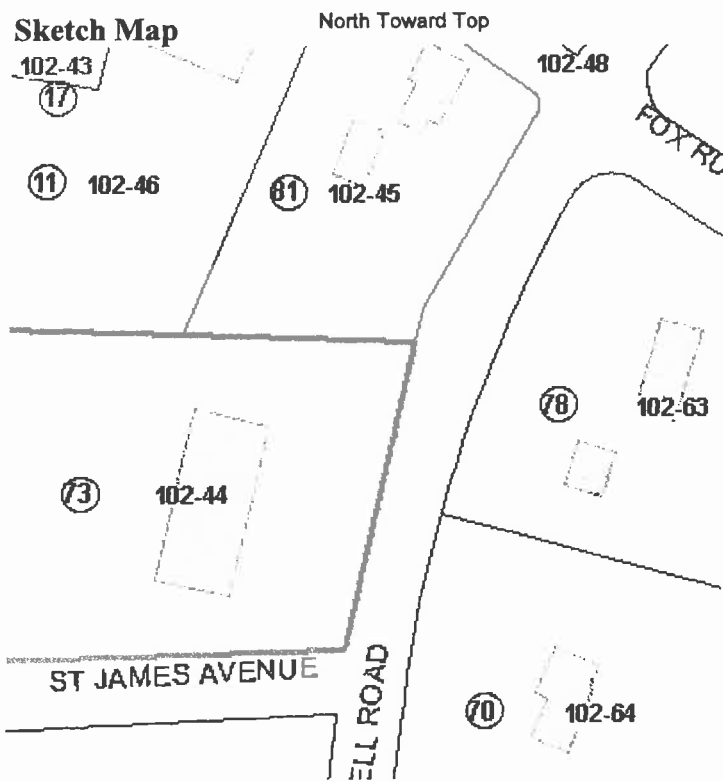
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/08

Map and Lot # 102 44 USGS Quad Area(s) W Form Number 246

Town Groton3

Place (neighborhood or village)

West Groton

Address 73 Pepperell Road

Historic Name Tarbell School

Uses: Present School Dept. Offices

Original School

Date of Construction 1914

Source Town Report

Style/Form Craftsman, Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder H. G. Hunter

Exterior Material:

Foundation

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.44

Setting Rural village

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.

- * Tarbell School is a 1 1/2-story, ridge-hipped form on a raised foundation with elements of the Bungalow form and Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles; the low-pitched roof and deep eaves are prominent design features
- * The central entrance is accessed via a half flight of stairs to the upper floor while secondary entrances at grade access the lower floor; entrances are trimmed with cornices and pilasters
- * Windows are 12/12 double-hung sash with plain trim
- * Stout brick chimneys rise from the ends of the ridge-hipped roof
- * The low-profile façade faces east; the school retains most original design features

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.

Construction of the Tarbell School, so named for a prominent and long-resident West Groton family, was approved at the 1913 town meeting. Construction began in November, 1913 and the school opened for classes in September, 1914, according to the book "Groton at 350" and the Groton Landmark newspaper. The designer was the school building committee chairman, C. Z. Southard and construction was carried out by the M. W. Allen Company of Walpole. Charles Zibeon Southard occupied the house at 117 Main Street (MHC #13) in 1910 with his wife Roxa Dix Southard. Mr. Southard was listed in the 1918 and 1929 resident directories as a consulting engineer which may explain his undertaking the design of the school. The Massachusetts State Archives Fire Safety Records indicate the architect was H. G. Hunter who may have altered Mr. Southard's designs. The school building served around 90 students in grades 1-8 until the 1950s when attendance began to increase. In the face of attempts in the 1980s by the school department to close Tarbell in order to reduce expenditures, student parents raised pledge money to keep the doors open. The efforts were successful until 1991 when the school closed. In 1994, Tarbell became the location of the school district offices. Tarbell was built just one year prior to its Groton Center counterpart, the Boutwell School. Consolidation of the town's 14 district schools began at the start of the 20th century and was nearly completed with construction of the Tarbell School. Just two district schools remained after 1916.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Groton at 350, pp. 84-85, 211; Town report, 1914; Groton Landmark, November 22, 1913, August 29, 1914;

**** 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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Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
73 Pepperell 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: X A B X 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 Craftsman and Colonial Revival Style Tarbell School at 73 Pepperell Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. The School, named for a prominent and long-resident West Groton family, was approved at the 1913 town meeting. Construction began in November, 1913 and the school opened for classes in September, 1914. The designer was the school building committee chairman, C. Z. Southard and construction was carried out by the M. W. Allen Company of Walpole. The school building served around 90 students in grades 1-8 until the 1950s when attendance began to increase. The school remained in use until 1991. In 1994, Tarbell became the location of the school district offices. The long period of service to the Groton School Department establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the building's architectural details including the low-pitched roof, deep eaves, entrances trimmed with cornices and pilasters and stout brick chimneys at the ends of the ridge-hipped roof make the property eligible under Criterion C. The former school 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.



73 Pepperell Road, Tarbell School, now School Dept. Offices