

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 116 10 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 573

Town Groton3  
Place (neighborhood or village) LA

### 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 45 Powderhouse Road  
Historic Name Pillsbury House  
Uses: Present Dormitory  
Original Residence  
Date of Construction c. 1850  
Source Estimate/1856 Walling map  
Style/Form Victorian Eclectic  
Architect/Builder  
Exterior Material:  
Foundation Cinderblock  
Wall/Trim Wood clapboard  
Roof Asphalt shingle  
Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

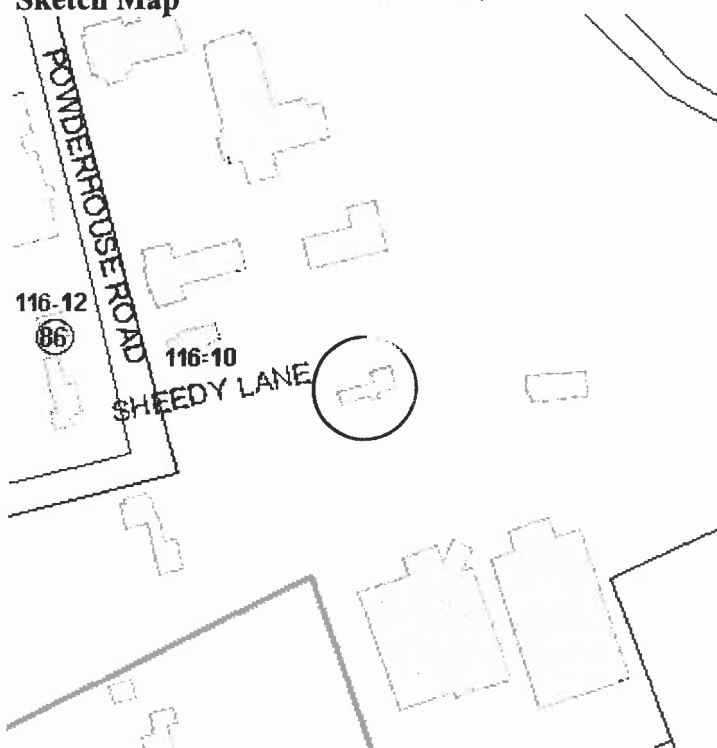
Moved no  yes  Date 1966

Acreage Part of LA campus

Setting Prep school campus

### 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.*

- \* Pillsbury House at 45 Powderhouse Road is a front-gabled Italianate design of two and one half stories and two by four bays with a two-story ell off the west side elevation.
- \* Decorative elements are the prominent brackets at the eaves, gable returns and paneled pilasters.
- \* The off-center entry is trimmed with a bracketed cornice and paneled pilasters as well sidelights flanking the door.
- \* Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash (extended in length on the first story) with slim hoods above except for the paired double hung 4/4 units in the front gable peak.
- \* The six by two-bay ell has plain trim and appears to have been a later addition.
- \* Pillsbury House, originally a residence and now a student dormitory, was moved in 1966 from its original location on Powderhouse Road where the Ferguson Building is now located.

### 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 1856 Middlesex County map depicts Mrs. (Theresa) Warren (born c. 1807) as the occupant of the house, then located on Powderhouse Road. Census information from 1855 indicates Mrs. Warren lived with her relative, 20 year old Elizabeth Warren and a boarder named Mary Ann Gilson. By 1865, the occupants were Nathan R. Thayer, a clerk born c. 1822, his wife Emily and daughters, Ida (born c. 1855) and Jennie (born c. 1858). Mrs. Thayer had been widowed by 1875 judging by her name as the occupant on the 1875 county atlas. By 1888, Jennie was still living here and working as librarian at the Groton Public Library (MHC #146) according to the 1888 resident directory. The 1929 resident directory indicates Ms. Thayer was a summer resident here and lived the remainder of the year in Boston. Trustees of Lawrence Academy bought Pillsbury House from Miss Jennie Thayer in July, 1942. It was used a dorm starting in 1949 when it was dedicated to Alfred Enoch Pillsbury, valedictorian of the class of 1867, member of the Buildings and Grounds and Executive Committees in the late 19th century, President of the Board of Trustees starting in 1918, Harvard alumnus, lawyer, state representative from 1876-79, state senator from 1884-1887 and Attorney General of Massachusetts from 1891-1893. The house was moved in 1966 from the current site of the Ferguson Building on the north end of the Quad.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1855, 1865 state census; resident directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; Middlesex County atlases, 1875, 1889; Middlesex County map, 1856; 1930 Somes map of Groton; "The history of Lawrence Academy at Groton, 1792-1992", pp. 296, 307, 328, 339, 341, 343, 345, 364, 367, 398;

**\*\* 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**                      **Property Address**  
Groton

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Photos Taken 3-6/08

**Area(s)**  
**Form No.**



45 Powderhouse Rd, Pillsbury House, Lawrence Academy