

**Groton Historic Resources Survey Project**

**Year Three**

**Phase IV Survey Final Report**

**Submitted by Sanford Johnson  
Historic Preservation Planning Consultant  
1/09**

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#### **Acknowledgments**

The consultant wishes to thank each member of the Groton Historical Commission, Shirley Wishart, Dick Dabrowski, Bob Degroot, Mike Roberts and Chairman Al Collins, for being selected for the work and for their input during the course of this survey. Through them, funding for the job was provided by the Groton Community Preservation Committee which made the work possible. Also, employees of the planning department, specifically Michelle Collette, have been instrumental in preparing the maps as has Kate Lommen, GIS consultant to the planning department. Staff of the Groton Public Library provided access to special collections that were also important to the project. Cooperation from archivists Dick Jeffers at Lawrence Academy and Doug Brown at Groton School added to the quality of the result. Finally, thanks are due to the past historians of the town including Samuel Green, Caleb Butler, Helen McCarthy Sawyer, Isabel Beal and Virginia May. Many other residents, past and present, contributed to the understanding of the town's history and character. While it is the goal of the consultant to describe the history of all survey properties, it is inevitable that some facts do not appear due to oversight, lack of space or the unavailability of documentation. Any omissions are the responsibility of the consultant and not of the GHC.

#### **Abstract**

In October, 2005, the Groton Historical Commission (GHC) undertook the task of retaining a consultant to assist them in documenting historic resources in the town and updating the existing inventory of historic resources created between 1967 and 2002. Since 2005, two rounds of year-long historic resource surveys have taken place. Work on the 2008 Groton survey (the consultant's third contract with the town) began with a meeting between the consultant and the GHC in January, 2008.

The project was divided into four phases. Phase I of the survey project provided for submission of a proposed base map for recording locations of historic resources, assessment of existing survey materials, a list of proposed survey properties selected according to criteria set forth in the scope of work and initial research efforts toward completing historical documentation. The map for the project was chosen to be a copy of the Planning Department's GIS map of the town. Details of the map include accurate depiction of street locations, street names, town boundaries, bodies of water, parcel lines, assessor numbers, street numbers and building footprints. Phase II required submission of the list of areas and properties to be surveyed and sample inventory forms. Phase III involved completing draft inventory forms, draft discussion of National Register of Historic Places contexts and list of all areas and resources recommended for nomination.

Phase IV consists of final drafts of all inventory forms on archival paper with digital photos, base map of all resources and the Survey Final Report, which follows. The report includes a statement of methodology with a description of survey objectives, assessment of existing survey information, selection criteria, description of

products and accomplishments and explanation of how results differed from expectations; street index of inventoried areas; final discussion of National Register contexts and list of NR recommendations; further study recommendations and bibliography.

Products of the survey, including inventory forms and final report, will be kept in Boston in the files of the Massachusetts Historical Commission as well as in Groton in the files of the GHC. Copies of the survey may be distributed as the GHC sees fit to additional repositories such as the Groton Public Library and Town Hall.

## **Survey Objectives**

The objective of the Groton Historic Resources Survey Update was to create MHC inventory forms in aid of updating and expanding the current historic resource inventory for the town. The project followed guidelines set forth in the scope of work created prior to commencement of the project. The boundaries of the project area are the boundaries of the town of Groton. All properties built prior to 1960 were considered for survey with a focus on Victorian, Early Modern and educational examples as well as buildings threatened with disuse.

## **Assessment of Existing Survey Forms**

The previously existing inventory forms, completed between 1967 and 2002, included 22 very thin area forms, information on two cemeteries, one quarry, eight bridges, one milestone, three historic markers, one stone residential gateway and one balancing rock. Documentation on 189 additional individual properties also existed. The recent surveys consisted in Year 1 of 100 individual resources and area forms for Groton Center, West Groton and Farmers Row and in Year 2 of 100 individual resources and area forms for Surrenden Farms and for the Hollingsworth and Vose Paper Mill Area.

## **Resource Selection Criteria**

Three historic educational campuses were documented on MHC Area Forms. These included the Lawrence Academy campus, principally along Main Street and Powderhouse Roads, the Groton School campus on Farmers Row, the Country Day School of the Holy Union at 14 Main Street and their array of residential and school buildings. Previously un-surveyed residential buildings scattered throughout the town, primarily with construction dates after 1870, were another priority for survey. These resources are typically village residential examples.

## **Educational Institutions**

The Groton Historical Commission requested the consultant to perform research on all educational institutions in town which resulted in the separate area forms for the three private schools during the current survey. Other related buildings such as the Chicopee School on Chicopee Row, the former Chaplin School, now the American Legion Hall on Hollis Street and district School #3 are documented on previously submitted forms. Remaining school buildings that did not get specific attention previously either due to their having been demolished or drastically altered are described below. The following is in the format of a timeline.

Voters of Groton directed selectmen in 1681 to form a school at public expense. Little is known about its location or curriculum and, since there is nothing further in the record on the subject until 1703 (according to

Caleb Butler's town history, pp. 217-219), it is likely that the school was established and in operation at that time. By 1716, Butler notes that the second meetinghouse (at the corner of Hollis and School Streets, now demolished) was put to use as a schoolhouse, suggesting the previous classes may have been held in a private house or houses. The 1716 former church was in turn replaced with a school building constructed in 1718 and augmented with a bell in 1728. The number of locations for schools increased to five in 1741 and seven in 1742. According to Butler, classes were held for six weeks at each school. None of the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouses are known to survive.

Lawrence Academy historian Alan Whipple notes in Academy Days/Groton Days that the frame of The Groton Academy (later Lawrence Academy) building was raised by William Nutting on Wednesday, November 21, 1792. Images on pp. 107-108 show the original academy building as a foursquare form of four by three bays, two stories with a bell tower, side hall entry. On the first floor were an entry hall, school room (the largest room), preceptor's room, wood room and a proposed library/recitation room in the rear. The second floor contained a clothes house, hall, (the biggest room), wood room, preceptor room and recitation room proposed to be built over the library and a water closet. The current campus of Lawrence Academy is documented on a separate MHC Area Form.

According to Caleb Butler (pp. 222-223), in 1792, a committee at town meeting was chosen to consider how many additional district schools were needed. The decision was for 12 districts that should all build schools at the town's expense; the number of districts was increased to 14 in 1823. Two of the 14 district schools are now in the town of Ayer. Additional details on district schools appear below.

The site of 14 Main Street, now the Country Day School of the Holy Union, was put to use as a private school for girls in 1820 by the sisters Mary and Susan Prescott. This endured for around a decade and would later become the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women in 1901. This campus is described on a separate MHC Area Form.

The 1793 Groton Academy building, renamed Lawrence Academy in 1846, burned on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1868. This was replaced on the same site (Between Dana and Brazer Houses on Main Street) with a Gothic Revival style brick school building in 1871.

According to the town report from 1871 Benjamin F. Hartwell was paid \$9332 for building the public Butler High School which preceded the existing 1928 Prescott School on the same parcel.

Virginia May wrote in A Plantation Called Petapawag that school buildings were given names in 1874. According to the 1875 Beers atlas, these were:

Butler School at 145 Main Street; this was built in 1871 and replaced the District #1 School that stood near the site of 85 Main Street (District school #1 was demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> c.; the 1871 Butler High School was partly burned in 1925 and mostly demolished except for parts of the foundation in 1927. The 1928 Prescott School was built on the same site and parts of the 1871 foundation)

Moors School at the corner of Smith Street and Moors Road (formerly District #2; demolished c. 1980, now an outdoor educational exhibit with a reconstructed stone outline of the foundation and informational sign)

School on Farmers Row at Long Hill Road (formerly District # 3; currently on the property of 76 Farmers Row, no name given on atlases from 1889 or 1875)

Dana School at the southwest corner of Kemp Street and Pepperell Road (formerly District # 4; Demolished, 19<sup>th</sup> c.; Replaced with the first Tarbell School on West Main Street c. 1850); The first Tarbell School at the site of 55 West Main Street was replaced in 1872 with a second Tarebll School which is the existing building at 55 West Main Street, now a residence.

Winthrop School near 570 Main Street (formerly District # 5 when located on Longley Road in 1847; The building was either moved to North Main Street or rebuilt there between 1847 and 1875 and burned c. 2000)

Hobart School on Nashua Road near North Street (Demolished in ????, formerly District # 6)

Chicopee School built c. 1833 near 373 Chicopee Row (formerly District #7; now a museum and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 2007)

Trowbridge School north of Rocky Hill Road on the west side of Old Dunstable Road (formerly District #8; Demolished in ????)

Willard School at the northeast corner of Lowell Road and Schoolhouse Road (formerly District # 9; Demolished in ????)

Prescott School at 385 Boston Road (So called on the 1875 atlas; not to be confused with the 1928 building at 145 Main Street of the same name; formerly District school #10) This remains unsurveyed and is drastically altered from its original brick form. Currently in use as a residence, the one-story, two by three-bay block has been enlarged with a two-story wood frame addition at the west side. It is unknown if the hipped roof is original.

District School #'s 11 and 12 were located in Ayer on Sandy Pond Road and in Ayer Center respectively.

The "Old Schoolhouse" on Forge Village Road across from Gilson Road (formerly District #13, demolished in ????)

Chaplin School at the corner at 75 Hollis Street, built in 1869. In 1919, it became the Laurence Gay American Legion Post 55. (formerly District #14)

Groton School was founded on Farmers Row by the Reverend Endicott Peabody in 1884. Architects Peabody and Stearns built the main school buildings including Hundred House, Brooks House, Fives Court, Gymnasium and the Schoolhouse between 1884 and 1902. A separate MHC Area Form exists to document the history and appearance of this important institution.

The Lowthorpe School on the site of the former Prescott School for Girls at 14 Main Street was established by Mrs. Edward Gilchrest Low in 1901. It is significant as the initial landscape architecture school for women in the country and is documented on a separate MHC Area Form.

The 1914 Tarbell and 1914 Boutwell Schools (at 73 Pepperell Road and 78 Hollis Street respectively) received separate MHC Building Forms as part of the current historic resources survey.

The current Prescott School at 145 Main Street was built as a high school in 1928 and opened in September of that year. It is documented on a separate MHC Building Form.

The Lowthorpe School became the Convent of the Holy Union of the Sacred Heart in 1947.

The second Lawrence Academy Schoolhouse burned 1956. It was replaced with the existing LA classroom building in 1958.

The town voted to build a High School to replace the Prescott School in 1960. This is now a junior high school. The current high school, built in 2004, is on Chicopee Row.

Currently, the 1928 Prescott School has been recently taken out of service as a grade school and will likely become administrative offices. Tarbell in West Groton is currently the administrative office of the school department which will likely soon be moved to Prescott. The Chicopee School serves as a museum. Chaplin is the American Legion Post. The 1960 High School is the middle school. Boutwell School is now a grade school. Both prep schools recently completed major additions to their campuses consisting of the Ansin Academic Building, Mees-Richardson Performing Arts Center and a dormitory at Lawrence and the Campbell Performing Arts Center at Groton. The Country Day School of the Holy Union continues to function as a private Catholic School.

### **Survey Procedures**

Survey procedures involved reconnaissance of historic properties in the town of Groton with the goal of determining geographic distribution, types of resources, their condition and appearance. Emphasis on the above Selection Criteria has resulted in the compilation of three Area Forms and a Data Sheet of 60 individual resources documented on MHC Building Forms. Choices for including resources in the survey were based on the GHC's intention to document school-related resources, Victorian and Early Modern period buildings, their architectural integrity of the resource, whether it is a representative example or unique in Groton, its prominence, quality of engineering or construction and whether it was perceived to be threatened. Descriptions of buildings and associated resources were compiled from notes made during the town-wide reconnaissance and photos taken at that time. Research performed in local, state and regional libraries informed the historical narratives. The Groton Public Library and the Massachusetts State Library in Boston were the primary sources for historical information. Internet resources also played an enlarged role given the availability of more digitized resources and specialized digital library collections. Harvard University, Tufts University, the Library of Congress, Cornell University, the Universities of Michigan and Northern Illinois, the Boston Public Library, the New York Times Archives, the Bostonian Society and the Massachusetts Archives all have extremely useful collections.

### **Historic Documentation**

Documentation for the Historical Narratives in the survey forms is derived from many sources. Those found to be most helpful are the maps which provide the starting point for almost all historical documentation. Those

with owner names were published in 1832, 1856, 1875, 1889 and 1930, a far greater range of dates than for most other towns. The annotated bibliography gives the location of most resources including maps. The 1930 map by Dana Somes hanging in the Groton Historical Society provided much information regarding homeowners from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Resident directories provide street locations for residents and in many cases, occupations and family member names. These exist for the years 1888, 1918 and 1929.

The numerous other historical sources tend to be textual and add to the basic facts gleaned from the maps and Butler Field Notes. See the bibliography for references and locations.

### **Survey Products**

The principal product of the survey consists of MHC Area Forms for the Lawrence Academy campus, Groton School campus on Farmers Row and the Country Day School of the Holy Union as well as 60 forms for individual resources which are primarily residences. Many of these describe multiple resources such as houses with associated barns. The accompanying discussion of National Register of Historic Places contexts locates resources in the spectrum of historical significance. Contexts are based on and refer to the MHC *Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Town of Groton*, 1980. The Street Index lists all properties included in the survey arranged alphabetically by street and by number. National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Criteria were applied to all resources. Eleven individual resources not located within historic area boundaries and all three areas are recommended for listing in the National Register although the vast majority are also eligible as contributing elements to National Register districts such as Groton Center, Farmers Row and West Groton. The number of eligible properties is significantly higher than most other communities of the size of Groton due to their high degree of preservation.

### **Changes in Survey Expectations**

Expectations about the kind of resources in Groton prior to the survey were that they would be primarily residential examples and a few industrial and commercial buildings. Resources were expected to be located throughout the town. Their condition was expected to vary from fair to excellent. During the project, resources were surveyed according to criteria set forth at the outset of the project. As expected, resources were primarily residential with many agricultural properties and a small number of industrial and commercial examples. These were located throughout the town. Their condition was expected to vary from fair to excellent which proved true.

## Groton Historic Resources Street Indexes

### Lawrence Academy Campus Area

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
113 11	12, 214	11	Lowell Road	Waters House	c. 1782	Second Empire/Federal	Dormitory
116-9	542	90	Lowell Road	Carpenter Shop	c. 1950	No style	Shop
116 9	543	92	Lowell Road	Peabody House/Mountain House	c. 1910	Colonial Revival	Residential
115 1	19	36	Main Street	Park, John G. House	1829	Federal, Classical Revival	Residential
114 17	18, 215	47	Main Street	Park, Stuart J. House	1812	Federal, Colonial Revival	Residential
114 17	344	53	Main Street	Shumway House	c. 1850	Gothic Revival	Residential
113 14	145	77	Main Street	Loomis House	c. 1905	Queen Anne	Dormitory
116 12	177	80	Main Street	Spaulding-Prescott House	c. 1846	Greek Revival	Dormitory
113 15	17	85	Main Street	Butler, Caleb House	1810	Federal	Residential
116 12	24	86	Main Street	Brazer, James House	1802	Federal	Residential
116 12	23	98	Main Street	Dana, Judge Samuel House	1793	Federal	Residential/Institutional
116 10	560		Powderhouse Road	Ansin Building	2004	Colonial Revival	Academic Building
116 10	561		Powderhouse Road	Grant Rink	1971	No style	Hockey Rink
116 10	562		Powderhouse Road	Faculty Housing	c. 1995	No style	
116 10	563		Powderhouse Road	Madigan Student Center	1981	Deconstructionist	Student Center
116 10	564		Powderhouse Road	Faculty Housing	c. 1995	No style	Residential
116 10	565		Powderhouse Road	Faculty Housing	c. 1995	No style	Residential
116 10	566		Powderhouse Road	Faculty Housing	c. 1995	No style	Residential
116 10	567		Powderhouse Road	Stone Athletic Center	c. 1998	No style	Gymnasium
116 10	568	11	Powderhouse Road	F. G. Lawrence House	c. 1908	Colonial Revival	Dormitory
116 12	178	12	Powderhouse Road	Bigelow, John Prescott Hall	1863	Second Empire	Dormitory
116 10	569	17	Powderhouse Road	Ferguson Building	1968	Colonial Revival	Library, Performing Arts



Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
116 10	570	25	Powderhouse Road	Gray Building	1948	Colonial Revival	Dining Hall
116 12	571	26	Powderhouse Road	School House	1956	Colonial Revival	School Building
116 10	572	35	Powderhouse Road	Spaulding Hall	1954	Colonial Revival	Dormitory
116-10	149	39	Powderhouse Road	Dr. Green Dormitory-Wells-Ebert House	c. 1836	Greek Revival	Dormitory
116 10	573	45	Powderhouse Road	Pillsbury House	c. 1850	Victorian Eclectic	Dormitory
116 12	574	48	Powderhouse Road	Winthrop L. Sheedy Faculty Building	c. 1855	French Eclectic	Faculty Housing
116-10	460	61	Powderhouse Road	H. A. Bancroft House	c. 1850	Italianate	L. A. Alumni Development

### Groton School Campus

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
219-8	499		Farmers Row	Dining Hall-Old Gymnasium	1902	Classical Revival	Dining hall
219-9	500		Farmers Row	Student Center	1975	No style	Academic
219-8	501		Farmers Row	Science Wing	c. 1975	N/A	Academic
219-8	502		Farmers Row	Griswold House	1907	Classical Revival	Residential
219-2	503		Farmers Row	Boiler House	c. 1899	N/A	Power generation
219-8	504		Farmers Row	Chapel	1900	Gothic Revival	Religious
219-2	505		Farmers Row	Power House	c. 1899	N/A	Power generation
219-2	506		Farmers Row	Nash House	1926	Colonial Revival	Residential
219-9	507		Farmers Row	Auchincloss Gate	c. 1932	N/A	Entry gate
219-8	508		Farmers Row	School House	1899, 1932 addition	Classical Revival	Academic
219-2	509		Farmers Row	Sturgis House	c. 1899	English Revival	Residential
219	510		Farmers Row	Jefferson House	1901	Colonial Revival	Residential
219-8	511		Farmers Row	Fives Courts	1890, 1895, 1901	Classical Revival	Fives/ handball??
219-8	512		Farmers Row	Athletic Center	c. 1998	N/A	Athletics
219-4.3820	513		Farmers Row	Campbell Performing Arts Center	2004	N/A	Performing arts
219-9	514		Farmers Row	Whitney Baseball	1910	Classical Revival	Art Center

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
				Cage			
219-8	515		Farmers Row	Visual Arts	2002	N/A	Academic
219-9	516		Farmers Row	Bacon Gate	c. 1924	N/A	Entry gate
219-9	517		Farmers Row	West Gate	c. 1934	N/A	Entry Gate
219-2	518		Farmers Row	Buildings and Grounds-McMillan	c. 1899	Victorian Eclectic	Campus maintenance
219-8	519		Farmers Row	Brooks House	1884	Kentish Manor/English Revival	Dormitory
107 16	86	182	Farmers Row	Eaton, Joshua House	c. 1790	Federal	Residential
219-9.2909	343	234	Farmers Row	Zahner House	1920	Colonial Revival	Residential
107 11	520	237	Farmers Row	Endicott Peabody House	1941	Colonial Revival	Residential
219 9.2911	521	246	Farmers Row	Prescott House	1933	Colonial Revival	Residential
219 9.2912	522	250	Farmers Row	Reginier House	1941	Colonial Revival	Residential
219 2	39	281	Farmers Row	Hopkins-Waite House	c. 1820	Federal-Victorian Eclectic	Residential-Groton School
219 2	40	287	Farmers Row	Bancroft-Jackson-Graves House	c. 1815	Federal	Residential-Groton School
219-2.3836	523	295	Farmers Row	Engineers House (Durant House)	c. 1924	Cape Cod	?
219-4.3821	524	364	Farmers Row	Norton House	1917		Residential
219-3.3827	525	410	Farmers Row	Culver House	1880		Residential
107-10	528	35	Higley Street	Bentinck-Smith House 1			Residential
107-11.3121	529	64	Higley Street	Pittman House	1920		Residential
107-11.3122	530	76	Higley Street	Sackett House	1995	N/A	Residential
222-60	531	90	Higley Street	Scudder House	1930		Residential
219-9	534		Joy Lane	Lyons House			Residential
219-9	535		Joy Lane	Fidler House			Residential
219-4	536		Joy Lane	Daycare Center	c. 2000	N/A	Child day care
219-3	537		Joy Lane	Whitney House	c. 1840		Residential
219-4	538		Joy Lane	Sheerin House	1961		Residential
219-9	539		Joy Lane	Black House			Residential
219-	540	19	Joy Lane	Peabody House	1940		Residential

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
3.3826				East and West			
219-9.3810	541	98	Joy Lane	Richards House	1911		Residential
219-9	550		Nashua River	Richards Boathouse	1953	N/A	Rowing/ Boathouse
219-2.3228	556	20	Peabody Street	Scanlon House	c. 1919	Colonial Revival	Residential
222-58	557	62	Peabody Street	Belsey Barn			??
222-58	558	62	Peabody Street	Smith House 2	1968		Residential
219	577		Shirley Road	Pest House	1894	Classical Revival	??
219	578		Shirley Road	Goodrich House			Residential
219	579		Shirley Road	Gordon House	1901		Residential
219	580		Shirley Road	Gardner Barn	1887, 1902	Victorian Eclectic	??
219	581		Shirley Road	Dome	1901	Classical Revival	??
219	582		Shirley Road	Gardner Bungalow	1901	Dutch Colonial Revival	Residential
219-4.3816	583	13	Shirley Road	Cutting House	c. 1920	Classical Revival	Residential
219	584	33	Shirley Road	Gunderson House			Residential
219-4.3818	585	35	Shirley Road	Parents House	1920	Colonial Revival	Residential
219-9.3809	586	50	Shirley Road	Abbott House	1906	Colonial Revival	Residential
219-9.3811	587	60	Shirley Road	Gardner House	1888	Classical Revival	Residential
219-4.3819	588	63	Shirley Road	Clark Memorial	1931	Colonial Revival	Residential
219-3.3824	589	83	Shirley Road	Huebner House	1900		Residential
219-9.2914	590	270	Shirley Road	Headmasters-Hundered House-Health Center	1891	Classical Revival	Academic/ Dormitory/ Library

### Country Day School of the Holy Union/Lowthorpe School

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
115-2	592	14	Main Street	Susan Prescott House	c. 1820	Federal	Administrative
115-2	593	14	Main Street	Dormitory	1928	Colonial Revival	Dormitory
115-2	594	14	Main Street	School Buildings	c. 1970	No style	Educational

Map-Lot	MHC#	Street#	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Uses: Present
115-2	595	14	Main Street	Garage	c. 1940	No style	Storage
115-2	596	14	Main Street	Garage	c. 1960	No style	Storage
115-2	597	14	Main Street	Cinderblock Building	c. 1960	Victorian Eclectic	Unknown
115-2	598	14	Main Street	Bethany House	c. 1950	Cape Cod	Residential

### Individual Resources

Map-Lot #	MHC #	Street#	Address	NR Eligible	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Use	Architect/Builder
112-9	297	14	Adams Avenue			c. 1933	Dutch Colonial Revival	Residential	
112-8	298	17	Adams Avenue			1922	Bungalow	Residential	
102-48	484	2	Bixby Hill Road		Former Christian Union Parsonage	c. 1900	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
108-8	485	169	Broadmeadow Road		Sargisson House	c. 1882	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	John Condon, et al., builders
111-17	486	19	Champney Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
112-68	487	22	Champney Street			c. 1920	Dutch Colonial Revival	Residential	
111-15	488	28	Champney Street			c. 1920	Bungalow	Residential	
111-18	489	29	Champney Street		Monk House	c. 1880	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-20	490	43	Champney Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-21	491	47	Champney Street		Amos L. Ames House	c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-9	492	58	Champney Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-22	493	59	Champney Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-6	494	68	Champney Street			c. 1900	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-23	495	69	Champney Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-	496	22	Common			c.	Italianate	Residential	

Map-Lot #	MHC #	Street#	Address	NR Eligible	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Use	Architect/Builder
39			Street			1870			
225-13	497	109	Common Street	Yes	George and Mary May House	1848-1849	Greek Revival, Victorian Eclectic	Residential/agricultural	
225-22	498	162	Common Street	Yes		c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
107-11	520	237	Farmers Row		Endicott Peabody House	1941	Colonial Revival	Residential	Daland Chandler, architect
138-7	526	319	Forge Village Road			c. 1880	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
234-13	162	248	Gay Road	Yes	Blood-Gay House	c. 1875	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
107-9	527	31	Higley Street			c. 1935	Colonial Revival, Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
112-132	153	30	Hollis Street		Palmer's Block	c. 1898	Victorian Eclectic	Commercial	
112-109	341	78	Hollis Street		Boutwell School	1914	Spanish Revival; Panel Brick	School	W. H. & Henry McLean, architects
111-27	532	139	Hollis Street			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
111-60	533	154	Hollis Street			c. 1900	Shingle	Residential	
226-4	920		Longley Road, rear		Soapstone Quarry		N/A		
113-13	345, 346	71	Main Street		Palmer House	c. 1900	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
113-14	145	77	Main Street		Loomis House	c. 1905	Queen Anne	Dormitory	
113-8	348	140	Main Street			c. 1895	Victorian Eclectic	Commercial	
113-2	356, 911	176	Main Street		Gen. Bancroft House-Shawfieldmont	1903-1904	Shingle	Residential	C. H. Dodge, builder; F.F. Low, Arch.
112-3	359	209	Main Street			c. 1842	Federal	Commercial	
112-41	367	235	Main Street		Shattuck Store	c. 1870	Victorian Eclectic	Commercial	
111-54	544, 545	38	Martins Pond Road	Yes		c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
243-5	546	685	Martins Pond Road	Yes		c. 1830	Greek Revival	Residential	
109-9	547, 548	67	Mill Street			c. 1910	Colonial Revival	Residential/agricultural	
109	549	96	Mill Street			c.	English Revival	Residential	

Map-Lot #	MHC #	Street#	Address	NR Eligible	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Use	Architect/Builder
29						1935			
114 11	551	24	Old Ayer Road	Yes		c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
114 2	552	29	Old Ayer Road	Yes	Dr. Earland Gilson House	1887	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
114 9	553	44	Old Ayer Road	Yes		c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
103 47	554	13	Old Orchard Street			c. 1915	Craftsman/Colonial Revival	Residential	
103 62	555	20	Old Orchard Street			c. 1920	Colonial Revival/Craftsman	Residential	
219 2.322 8	556	20	Peabody Street		Scanlon House	c. 1919	Colonial Revival	Residential	
102 22	233	17	Pepperell Road			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
102 25	238	39	Pepperell Road			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
102 44	246	73	Pepperell Road	Yes	Tarbell School	1914	Craftsman, Colonial Revival	School Dept. Offices	H. G. Hunter
102 55	559	102	Pepperell Road			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
116 10	568	11	Powderhouse Road		F. G. Lawrence House	c. 1908	Colonial Revival	Dormitory	
116 10	573	45	Powderhouse Road		Pillsbury House	c. 1850	Victorian Eclectic	Dormitory	
116 12	574	48	Powderhouse Road		Winthrop L. Sheedy Faculty Building	c. 1855	French Eclectic	Faculty Housing	Elliot Cabot, architect
112 77	413, 414	17	School Street			1903	Classical Revival	Residential	James Bennett, builder
233 102	575	79	Schoolhouse Road	Yes	Gale House	c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential/agricultural	
131 33	576	71	Shenandoah Road			c. 1930	No style	Residential	
102 10	247	29	St. James Avenue		St James Church	1929	English Revival	Church	William B. Colleary, Architect
113 59	424	20	Station Avenue		Odd Fellows Hall	1915	Colonial Revival	Fire Station	Daniel H. Woodbury, architect
113 55	591	23	Station Avenue		Groton Electric Light Department	1909	Spanish Revival	Groton Electric Light Department	
102 16	252	40	Townsend Road			c. 1870	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	

Map-Lot #	MHC #	Street#	Address	NR Eligible	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Use	Architect/Builder
102-12	256, 257	60	Townsend Road			c. 1870	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
103-31	476	208	Townsend Road			c. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	
101-23	268	39	West Main Street		Christian Union Church	1885	Stick Style	Church	
101-26	274	55	West Main Street		Former Tarbell School	1872	Victorian Eclectic/No style	Residential	
106-29	295, 296	111	West Main Street			c. 1870	Victorian Eclectic	Residential	

### Discussion of National Register contexts for eligible properties in Groton

Groton is the site of many National Register-eligible residential, commercial and agricultural properties as well as the Lawrence Academy and Groton School campuses and the Country Day School of the Holy Union. Trends and events falling under the themes or contexts of Education, Agriculture, Architecture, Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Landscape Architecture, Politics and Government, Religion and Transportation have had their affect on the town at large and on the individual resources. Methods of construction and village planning used in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries combined with the high artistic values held by the builders and designers of houses, streetscapes, schools are notable achievements make many resources potentially NR eligible. Descriptions of the appearance and historical background of the resources are used to determine eligibility for the NR and comprise the bulk of the remainder of this document.

### Historic Areas

#### Lawrence Academy

The Lawrence Academy campus contains numerous NR eligible properties, both purpose built academic buildings and former residential examples now in use as student and faculty housing. The 1792 founding date for the school makes it one of the nation's oldest academies, although only around three resources remain from the period (Brazer, Dana and Waters Houses). The School is eligible under criterion A for its 200 year association with educational activities in a town where private education has been a prominent feature. While the campus has evolved from a single school building built in 1793 to over 100 acres of brick and wood frame buildings from periods spanning the Federal to the Modern, it retains its associations and its original site as part of the campus. The variety of architectural styles and quality and condition of the buildings makes the school eligible under criterion C at the local level.

#### Groton School

Groton School is one of the nation's most exclusive college preparatory schools which functions amid one of the finer campuses, designed in part by Frederick Law Olmsted and his successors. Dramatic buildings by architects Peabody and Stearns, Robert Burnside Potter and Henry Vaughan surround the Circle, or campus core and relate principles of the American Romantic style of landscape design in a way that is unique in the town,

making the school NR eligible under criterion C. The school's 130-year history of educating national leaders in the arts, politics (including President Franklin Roosevelt) and business make it eligible under criterion A at the national level.

### **Country Day School of the Holy Union**

The Country Day School of the Holy Union, a private Catholic grade school is a smaller institution than the prep schools in Groton but it does contain some unusual features such as landscape elements that remain from the time when it was known as the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women from 1901-1945. During that time, students used the campus as an outlet for design practice and resulted in the existing brick walkways and the brick Dawson Gate. The c. 1820 Federal style Prescott House and former dormitory designed c. 1928 by architect J. Lowell Little also contributes to its historic appearance, making it NR eligible under criterion C. The associations with Susan Prescott, the original owner of the house and teacher (of Margaret Fuller Ossoli) at Miss Prescott's School for Girls in the 1820s and with Mrs. Edward Gilchrist Low, founder of the Lowthorpe School which was the first to teach landscape architecture to women, make it eligible under criterion A at the local level.

### **Victorian Period Residences in Groton**

#### **2 Bixby Hill Road**

The Victorian Eclectic style house at 2 Bixby Hill Road is a front-gabled, 2 1/2-story, 2x2-bay form with a 1-story ell attached to the west elevation. The corner entry, recessed in a cutaway porch, is covered by a semi-circular hood supported by Doric columns; a secondary porch covers the south elevation of the ell and is supported by posts with jigsaw brackets; a small rectangular bay window of 1 story projects from the south elevation of the main block. Architectural detail includes the 3 courses of stagger-butt shingles at the second story and in two levels in the gable peaks, the flared course of shingles that divides the first story from the second, and the molded cornice which appears at the soffit that divides the second story from the gable. The Victorian Eclectic style design combines Colonial Revival and Medieval inspired elements which suggests a construction date around 1900 (The 1889 atlas does not depict the building). The Christian Union Church at 35 West Main Street (MHC #268) was the owner of the house by 1907. The church's Centennial Anniversary Booklet states the society bought the house in that year for a parsonage but does not specify that they had it built which may mean it was built previously as a residence.

#### **162 Common Street**

The house at 162 Common Street is a Victorian Eclectic style, 3x2-bay, 2 1/2-story side gabled form with a rear ell and attached shed at the northeast corner; the center entry has an open flat roofed porch supported by square piers; the door is a double leaf arrangement lit by quarrel panes. Decorative features include the corner boards with molded caps, gable returns, prominent window hoods and symmetrical fenestration pattern. The first known owner of 162 Common Street was Flora J. Smith (born c. 1878) whose occupancy is reflected on the 1930 map of Groton.



## 248 Gay Road

The Victorian Eclectic style house at 248 Gay Road is a 2 1/2- story, 2x4-bay, front-gabled form with a historic 2-story ell attached to the south side and a modern ell of 2 stories attached to the rear (east) of the main block; the side hall entry hood with carved brackets and 1-story bay window are additional secondary masses. Decorative features include the wide frieze board, paneled corner pilasters, molded cornice with deep eaves and gable returns. Research by the GHC indicates the house was built c. 1830 for J. F. Blood. The 1847 and 1856 maps of Groton depict M. Lewis as the occupant of the house at this location, although it is not clear it was the same building. The 1875 Atlas shows J. F. Blood as the owner. Mr. Blood continued to live and work as a farmer here through 1889 as his name appears next to the building on the atlas from that year. By 1880, the farm had increased significantly in value to \$6500, suggesting he built the house since the previous census was taken. Mr. Blood sold 10,000 gallons of milk in 1880, the fourth highest total for a farmer in Groton in that year.

## Loomis House, 77 Main Street

The Queen Anne style design is 3x3 bays and two and one half stories tall with a ridge-hipped roof and a nearly square plan; Secondary masses include the gabled dormers on the front and sides as well as an octagonal tower at the northeast corner; canted corners articulate the edges of the façade. Windows are mainly 1/1 double hung sash with a Queen Anne sash in the third story of the tower and a tripartite sash in the front dormer. The main entry in the façade is covered by an open gable roofed porch supported by paired square columns on plinth blocks; a hipped porch supported by square columns on plinth blocks covers most of the south elevation and the secondary entry. Details include the scroll cut ornament under the canted soffits at the corners of the façade, deep eaves, molded cornice and the locally unusual tower with octahedral roof clad in slate, also locally rare. The house, named Loomis House by the current owner, Lawrence Academy, may have been built c. 1905 by the carpenter Henry Morton Adams who lived here with his wife Alice and son Lester from at least 1918 (according to the resident directory from that year) until Henry's death in 1938 (aged 84) and Alice's in 1940 (aged 80). The number of outbuildings suggests Mr. Adams ran his business on the premises. Mr. Adams' work included construction of a barn on Jenkins Road in 1909, repairs to Dana House (MHC #23) at Lawrence Academy in 1912 and renovations at the Groton Grange (MHC #198). The house at 77 Main Street now serves as a dormitory for students at Lawrence Academy.

## Early Modern Period Residences in Groton

### 28 Champney Street

The Bungalow at 28 Champney Street is a 1 1/2-story, side-gabled form with a gabled dormer on the front slope of the roof and a gabled bay window the joins the main block of the house to the rear ell. Decorative features include the prominent eave brackets, exposed rafter ends and double coursed shingle cladding. Windows are typically 9/1 sash except for the fixed 10-pane sash in the dormer and the lunette in the side gable peak; window trim is plain. The main entrance is a double leaf door in the center of the façade (which may access an enclosed porch integrated into the façade) and has plain trim. Champney Street was laid out shortly after publication of the 1889 atlas of Middlesex County. The 1930 map of Groton depicts G. W. Woods as the owner of 28 Champney Street. This was, according to resident directories, George Woods who lived here with his wife

Agnes. Mr. Woods was the son of George H. Woods, a carpenter on Common Street, suggesting the possibility one or both were responsible for the house's construction.

#### 154 Hollis Street

The Shingle style house at 154 Hollis Street is a 2 1/2-story, cross-gabled form with a rear ell and an integrated porch cut away from the first story of the main block; a pent roof with exposed rafter ends divides the attic level from the second story in the front gable; the side-gabled secondary block facing north has a hipped dormer rising from the roof; a larger gabled dormer occupies the south slope of the main roof. Architectural details include the patterned wood shingles in the front gable peak with diamond shaped ornament and wood beltcourse below, heavy knee braces supporting the integrated front porch. The 1930 map of Groton may depict H. C. Atwood as the occupant of the house at 154 Hollis Street. Henry C. Atwood is listed in the 1918 resident directory as a farmer on Hollis Street and later, in 1929, as a farmer living with his wife Emma.

Consult the street index of individual resources as well as the indexes for school campus buildings for additional examples built in these styles.

#### **Areas in Groton included in the 2008 survey that are potentially National Register Eligible**

Lawrence Academy  
Groton School  
Country Day School of the Holy Union

#### **Further Study Recommendations**

National Register Nominations should be completed for National Register eligible town-owned properties not located in potential NR historic districts (such as Fitch's Bridge) as well as the Surrenden Farms Area, Hollingsworth and Vose Area, Town Center Area, Farmers Row Area and the West Groton Area. The Groton Cemetery, while privately owned by the Groton Cemetery Association, should be considered as the subject of an NR nomination.

Houses with construction dates before 1800 warrant interior examinations to verify and confirm the existence of any Colonial characteristics.

Houses from before 1830 would also benefit from an interior examination.

Archaeological sites of a historic and pre-historic nature should be surveyed.

Documentation of historic and agricultural landscapes throughout the town should be undertaken.

Deed research, beyond the scope of this project, may be carried out for historic properties not yet subject to such methods

National Register nominations for the center village, West Groton, Farmers Row, Surrenden Farms, the Hollingsworth and Vose Paper Mill Village areas would benefit the town by expanding the level of documentation of those areas.

The many residents of Groton involved in Abolitionist activities should be researched further.

Subsequent historic resource survey activity should consider for survey all properties listed in Appendix B of the Boston University-Groton Planning Board study done in 1989.

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