

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113 55 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 591

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village)
Groton Center

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 23 Station Avenue
Historic Name Groton Electric Light Department
Uses: Present Groton Electric Light Department
Original Groton Electric Light Department

Date of Construction 1909

Source Groton Landmark

Style/Form Spanish Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Stucco

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Modern ind. buildings for power co. equipment

Major Alterations (with dates)

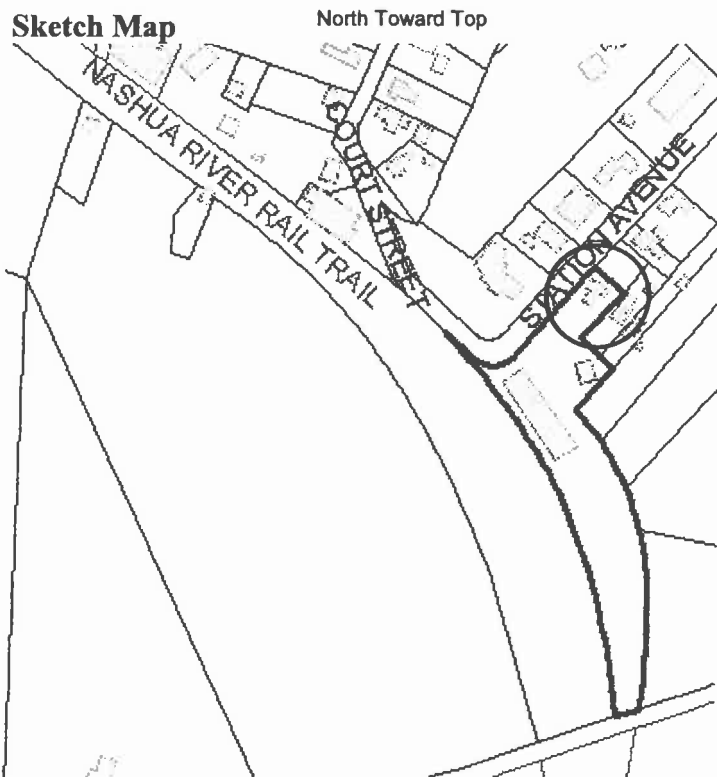
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2.117

Setting Side street in town center

Sketch Map



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 1-story, 2x3-bay, cross-gabled office of the Groton Electric Light Department has a stucco exterior, relatively gradual roof pitch, a lack of trim at the openings and the bargeboard with exposed rafter ends which suggest the influence of the Spanish Revival style
- * A variety of window types exists including the fixed pane facing the street and double-hung sash with quarrel panes over a single pane
- * The well-maintained GELD office is smaller than most other buildings in Groton Center and particularly in the industrial area off Station Avenue

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.

It was voted at town meeting in early April 1909 to accept municipal ownership of electric lighting and to investigate a power supply. At a special town meeting in July, a vote was held to see if the town would build a substation onto the northwest corner of Town Hall. The vote on July 22 was in the negative for the addition to Town Hall but in the affirmative to find another suitable place. Meanwhile, the contract for putting up the light poles was given to Kendall Construction Co. of Boston. The original municipal electric lighting committee included Myron P. Swallow, H. K. Richards, F. F. Waters, John H. Robbins and George Bixby. Arrangements were made for the Ayer Electric Light Co. to furnish lighting which may indicate either electrical power or light fixtures. Power from the Ayer station came up Washington Street to Old Ayer Road to Station Avenue. The lighting in the center of town was in progress through August and consisted of 155 streetlights with 25 more in West Groton. The town was to sell power to the residents via their 2,300 volt 3-phase system which handled up to 40,000 kw/hr per year. Herman Huebner was the initial engineer of the substation on Station Avenue which was nearing completion by the fall of 1909. Mr. Huebner was replaced as engineer by Walter Dodge around the time of completion and in December, 1909, George Brigham, the former line foreman took over Walter Dodge's job. By Christmas, "Universal satisfaction" was expressed in local newspapers for the lighting system. Around 12 people were reported to have had their homes wired in various editions of the Public Spirit/Groton Landmark in 1909, some before actual power was available. The GELD continues to occupy the building and to provide electrical power to the town of Groton.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Turner's Public Spirit/Groton Landmark, April 10, 1909, July 17, 1909, July 24, 1909, August 14, 1909, August 21, 1909, September 11, 1909, November 13, 1909, November 20, 1909, December 11, 1909, December 25

**** 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 Groton
Property Address

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

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



23 Station Ave., Groton Electric Light Dept.