

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 102 16 USGS Quad Area(s) W Form Number 252

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village) West Groton

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 40 Townsend Road
Historic Name
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1870
Source Estimate

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

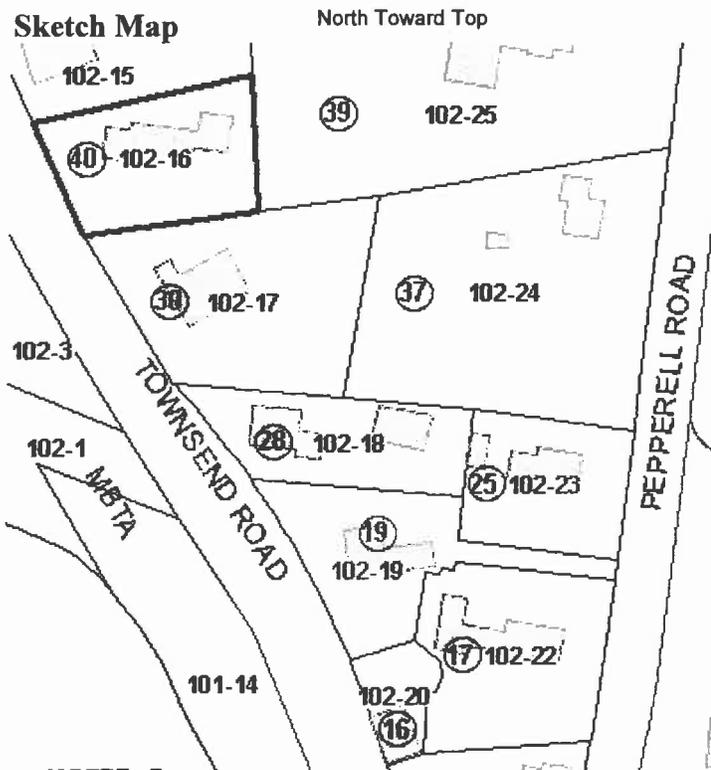
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date c. 1890

Acreage .26

Setting Rural village

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 house at 40 Townsend Road is a 1 1/2-story, 2x2-bay, front-gabled form with Victorian Eclectic style details; a rear addition of 1 1/2 stories with gable roof has been made parallel to the main block and second addition of 1 story behind it is perpendicular to the main block; a hipped porch covers the first story of the façade and a 1-story three-sided bay expands the plan at the north side elevation
- * Architectural details include the corner boards, gable returns, molded cornice and jigsaw brackets at the eaves of the front porch
- * Windows are a combination of 2/1 and 2/2 double-hung sash with slim hoods above; the side-hall entry has similar trim
- * The house is well-maintained and is of materials and a scale typical for West Groton

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 at 40 Townsend Road appears to have been built c. 1885 but does not appear on the 1889 Middlesex County atlas by Walker, suggesting it was moved, along with several other houses, from the former mill village of Thompsonville which had been located upriver of the Hollingsworth and Vose paper mill on the Squannacook River north of West Groton. (60 Townsend Road is presumed to be one of these moved houses) Asa Howard Thompson and his uncle Granville Shepley built a reel and box mill near the Townsend and Shirley town lines c. 1885 and around it were five houses comprising what was known as Thompsonville. Mr. Thompson later bought out Mr. Shepley and moved operations closer to West Groton on what is now called Cannery Row where the former mill complex is now in use as a picture frame shop. As part of the relocation, several of the houses were moved and it is presumed this is one of them. The 1930 map of Groton indicates this may have been the home of M. McGowan. This was likely Michael McGowan, a mill hand married to Annie McGowan according to the 1929 resident directory.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

"Groton at 350", pp. 63-64; 1930 Somes map of Groton; 1929 resident directory

**** 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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town **Property Address**
Groton

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
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Boston, MA 02125

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



40 Townsend Rd