

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 235-29 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 130

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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 270 Boston Road

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source Butler's field notes

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

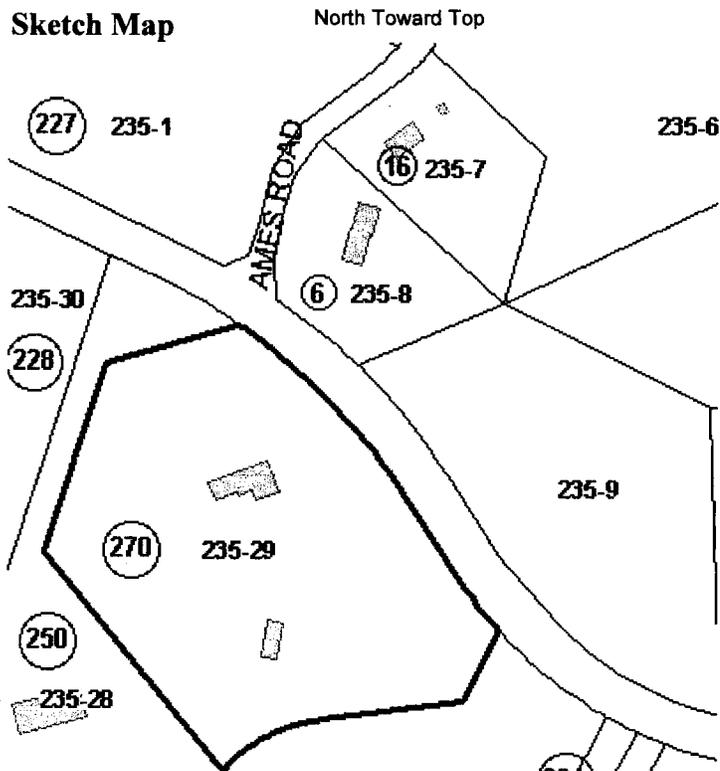
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 4.84

Setting Rural

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

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 270 Boston Road is a 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form with a symmetrical 5-bay façade and elements of the Greek Revival style;
- * Decorative elements include the paneled corner boards, wide friezeboard and molded cornice; 2-story bay windows occupy the side elevations of the house and two brick chimneys mark the edges of the roof ridge
- * The center entry has classical trim including pilasters, sidelights and denticulated cornice
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim
- * The detached shed is a side-gabled, 1 1/2-story form clad in wood clapboards; Access to the interior is through a door at the north side and at the rear via a staircase and second story entry door housed in a gabled dormer; an addition exists at the west and may function as a garage; a second outbuilding is visible through the trees north of the house
- * The house is well-maintained and is notable for its position elevated on a hillside above Boston Road; it is comparable in form and scale to the house at 399 Boston Road

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.

Caleb Butler's field notes indicate that in 1832, the house on this parcel had only 1 story, suggesting that the current building was built or enlarged at a later date. The owner from c. 1832 to c. 1847 was Joseph Brown who, in 1850, owned 150 acres and a farm valued at \$5800, a significant amount that likely represents the current building. He also owned 2 horse, 6 cows, 2 oxen and an orchard. By 1856, the occupant was the farmer H. C. Haynes, former owner of the smaller house at 56 Boston Road (MHC #??). By 1875, the county atlas shows Captain M. P. Palmer as the owner. This is the farmer Moses Poor Palmer, wounded Civil War Veteran and owner in 1870 of 150 acres and a farm valued at \$10000 that included 17 cows which are both amounts well above average. Dr. Green states in his history that Captain Palmer was a representative to the Middlesex District Court in 1883, justice of the peace in 1881, state senator in 1888 and that he was born in Derry, NH. He came to Groton to superintend a shoe factory located on Main Street (and later burned). The shoe factory was started by Mssr.s Bigelow and Randall and burned in 1855, after which time they moved operations to the corner of Main and West Streets. He later turned to farming according to Dr. Green who states Captain Palmer sent 1000 baskets of peaches to market from his farm and that they were less pretty but better tasting than California or New Jersey fruit according to the Boston Morning Journal, Sept 11, 1897. Captain Palmer remained here until his death in 1920 at the age of 90. The farmer Mosely Hale occupied the property in 1930 and was known to have grown up tending a large orchard in his hometown of Glastonbury CT. The WPA map of 1939 depicts the property as a farmstead with orchards and pasture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; 1939 WPA map; Butler's 1829 field notes; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; S.A.Green, Vol 2, p. 16, 17, 33, 120, 372; Vol 3, p. 174; Vol 4, pp.271, 320, 420; Boston Morning Journal, Sept 11, 1897; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Groton Houses", p. 83; 1888 Resident Directory; Green, "An Historical Sketch of Groton, Mass.", p. 243; Davis, Chas E. "Three Years in the Army, The Story of the 13th Massachusetts", p. 445;

**** 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
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)

Form No.



270 Boston Road