

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 399 Boston Road is a 2 1/2-story, side-gabled, Victorian Eclectic style design of 5x2 bays with a 1-story ell of four bays at the west side elevation
- * Decorative features include the frieze, molded cornice and gable returns
- * Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash with plain trim while the center entry has a Victorian style hood with carved brackets
- * Brick chimneys rise from the center of the main clock and from the ridge of the west side ell
- * The house is well-maintained and occupies a site facing south toward Boston road; It is comparable in scale and form to the house at 270 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.

Butler's field notes from 1828 indicate the house on this parcel, owned by Dan Parker, was 1 story, suggesting the current house was built later, perhaps around 1850. Mr. Parker's widow occupied the house in 1847, after which it was owned by a man named Priest, perhaps the builder of the current building. This may be Nathan Priest, born c. 1795 who farmed the property with his wife Mercy and 3 children. Andrew Robbins was the owner by 1875, a time when he owned several other properties in town including the houses at 142 Main Street (MHC #9) and 227 Boston Road (MHC #64). This multiple property ownership might explain the very high property valuation of \$15000 rendered in in the 1870 agricultural census schedules. Mr. Robbins was a farmer, justice of the peace in 1866 and a deputy sheriff in 1862. He married Matilda Spaulding in 1840 and had 2 children. By the time of the 1889 Walker atlas, the owner was M. F. Putnam, about whom little else is known. The farmers Frederick and Edna Martin lived here in 1930. The 1939 WPA map depicts the property as a semi-agricultural residence in pasture and timber.

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, chapter VII, p. 5; Vol ii, p. 32, 114, 303; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories; 1855, 1865 state census; 1888 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

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

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



399 Boston Road