

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 118-27 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 72

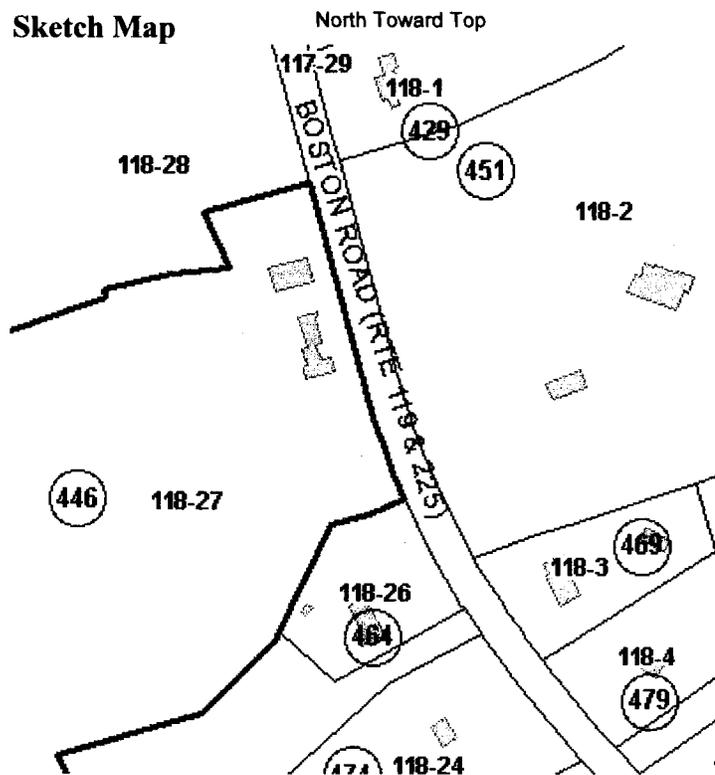
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

Address 446 Boston Road

Historic Name Levi Tufts House

Uses: Present Residential/agricultural

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1740

Source May, "Houses" p. 9

Style/Form Colonial, Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn, built c. 1919

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear ell rebuilt, 2005

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 35

Setting On Rt 119

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 Colonial style house at 446 Boston Road is a 5x1-bay, side-gabled form of 2 1/2 stories with two perpendicular rear ells; The first ell is a modern structure built in 2005 to replace a previously existing ell of 2 1/2 stories; the second ell is historic and rises 1 1/2 stories; this may have been the original house on the parcel
- * Windows are 8/12 double hung sash in the first story openings and 6/9 sash in the second; the center entry had plain trim with a slim cornice
- * Details include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, molded cornice and corner boards
- * The brick chimney occupies the center of the roof ridge
- * The detached barn is a gable-front form with a rolling door, pedestrian door and gable peak window in the principal elevation
- * The house is well-maintained and is among the older buildings on 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.

Dr. Green states the house was operated as an inn in the early 1800s and run by a woman named Tilly Buttrick. The house at this location in 1829 was described by Butler as having 2 stories, 1 chimney and 3 windows across the façade. This information was followed by the notation "old". It is possible that Butler referred to the second ell attached to the main house. The owners at the time were Levi Tufts and Asa Lowell, although Mr. Tufts (with his wife Betsy Fletcher whom he married in 1834 and 4 daughters) was the sole owner by 1860 when he was recorded in the agricultural census with 100 acres, a house worth \$3500, a horse and a cow. Mr. Tufts' estate was in possession of the property by 1856, after which time it was sold to the farmer Augustus Woods according to the 1875 county atlas. Mr. Woods, who remained here until at least 1889 according to the Walker atlas, owned 67 acres, a house worth \$2000, a horse and a cow. The farmers Nesbit and Alice Woods occupied the house from 1902 - 1946. Their daughter was the Groton historian Virginia May and she recorded in her diary of 1915 three droves of cattle passing along Boston Road. These may have been the last of a many herds over the years headed this way for pasture in western Massachusetts and southern NH according to Mrs. May. Cattle drives were noted as an event in the Groton Landmark of May, 11, 1912. Mrs. May also notes that her father built the existing barn c. 1919, that there were cider presses in a separate building on the farm. Subsequent owners were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johns. In 1939, the property was still in agricultural use with land planted in hay and crops. Richard Hinchman was an owner in the 1960s.

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 VIII, 10, Vol ii, 311; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Groton Houses", p. 9; 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
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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



446 Boston Road, Barn



446 Boston Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
446 Boston Road

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible X

Eligible only in a historic district

Contributing to a potential historic district

Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of significance by: Sanford Johnson

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Colonial style Tufts House at 446 Boston Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The core was built c. 1740 as a farmstead, was operated as an inn c. 1800 and was later owned by the farmers Levi Tufts and Augustus Woods from c. 1832-1889. Subsequent construction around 1840 added Federal style symmetry to the façade that had been only three bays across the façade. The building's associations with agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The Federal style form of the main block, which consists of the restrained ornament in the façade and later shed additions make the property eligible under Criterion C. The building was altered in 2005 with a new rear ell that closely resembles the previous version but remains largely unaltered and retains integrity of materials, setting and workmanship.