

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 133-49 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 59

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" 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 797 Boston Road
Historic Name Loring- Duffy House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential/agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1800

Source Butler 1832 map

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached 19th c. barn

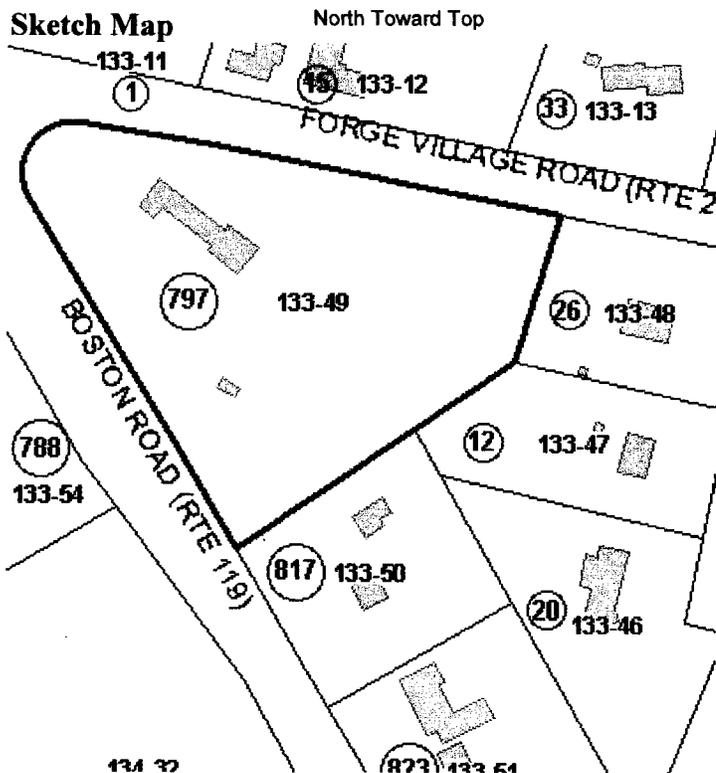
Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2.8

Setting On State Route 119



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 Duffy House is a center chimney, 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form with a hipped roof and elements of the Federal style; a rear ell is built perpendicular to the main block and connects the house to the 19th century barn
- * Decorative features include the center entry and symmetrical façade, corner boards and molded cornice
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim; the center entry is not visible from the road
- * The rear ell is a 1-story gabled block with wood shingle roof and a stout brick chimney rising from the ridge
- * The barn is a 2-story gable roofed form clad in vertical flushboard; roofing material is wood shingles; a pyramidal roofed cupola with weathervane tops the roof ridge
- * The setting is the commercialized intersection of State Route 119 and Forge Village
- * The house retains its form and detail and is well-maintained

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 797 Boston Road was owned in 1832 by John Hancock Loring according to Butler's map of that year which also states he owned the Ridge Hill Tavern at 1 Forge Village Road (MHC #57). Mr. Loring was a vice president of the 1855 town bicentennial celebration and remained at 797 Boston Road until at least 1856 as his name appears at the site on the Walling map of that year. Census information from 1850 indicates he owned 11 acres and had property valued at \$4500, a slightly higher than average amount. Mr. Loring grew few crops at that time. A subsequent owner by 1875 was John Fuzzard who, like Mr. Loring, also owned the nearby tavern and later added the house at 15 Forge Village Road (MHC #58) to his property. He owned the house until at least 1889 as his presence is reflected on the county atlas from that year. Lawrence Duffy, a mill hand, owned the house by 1930 and appears to have kept it in good condition and the surrounding land planted in hay according to the 1939 WPA map.

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; Previous GHC Research; S. A. Green, chapter VIII, p. 9, 10; XVIII, p. 5; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map of Groton;

**** 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
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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



797 Boston Road



797 Boston Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
797 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 Federal Style Loring-Duffy House at 797 Boston Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house was owned in 1832 by John Hancock Loring according to historian Caleb Butler's map of that year which also states Mr. Loring owned the Ridge Hill Tavern at 1 Forge Village Road (MHC #57). Mr. Loring was a vice president of the 1855 town bicentennial celebration and remained at 797 Boston Road until at least 1856 as his name appears at the site on the Walling map of that year. The farm remained in agricultural use until the 1930s according to maps drawn by the WPA in 1939. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the well-maintained house's symmetrical façade, hipped roof and attached barn make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship.