

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113-80 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 316

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)
Groton Center

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 20 Court Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1840

Source

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

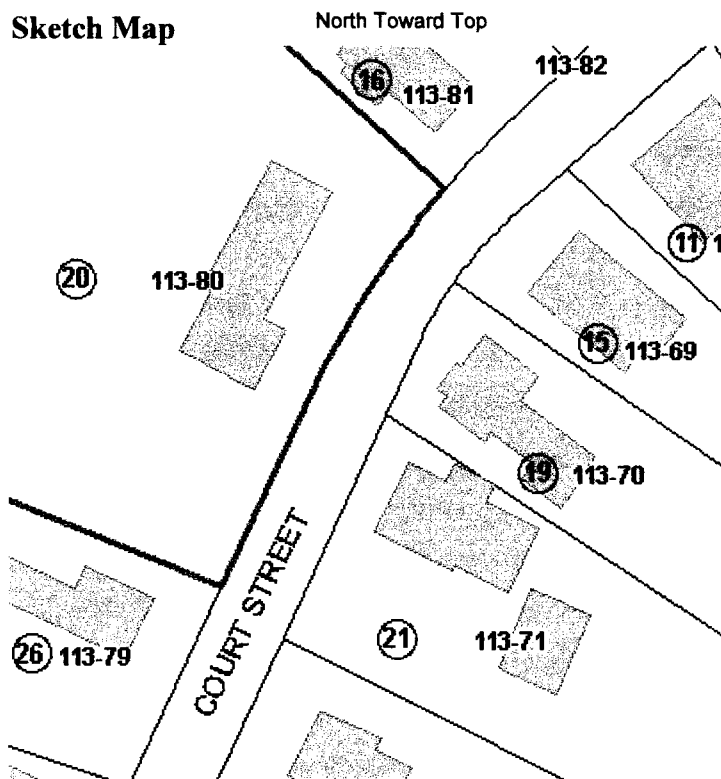
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .998

Setting Town Center

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 20 Court Street is a Greek Revival style, 2 1/2-story, front-gabled form of 3x2 bays with a Victorian Eclectic style full width open front porch; a 1-story ell is attached to the northeast side
- * Decorative features include the closed gable, corner boards and molded cornice; Turned post and carved brackets support the porch roof
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim; The side hall entry has sidelights and pilasters flanking the door
- * A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge
- * The ell appears to serve as machine storage judging by the vehicle opening at the far end; This section also has a brick chimney and stone foundation is visible in some places
- * The house is well-maintained and is larger than some others on side streets in Groton Center

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 1847 map of Groton may indicate William C. Lewis as the owner of this property. This is William Crosby Lewis, a deputy sheriff from 1837-1851, who lived with his wife Emeline and their son William Henry Harrison Lewis. He may also have owned the house at 11 Court Street (MHC #63) in 1856. 20 Court Street was owned by W. Lothrop in 1856, according to the Walling map of that year. Dr. Green explains that this is Captain Welcome Lothrop, the postmaster in 1846 when the office was in Liberty Hall at the northwest corner of Main and Court Streets. He was a native of Easton, MA, worked a mill on Cow Pond Brook in Groton and was a land surveyor "of some repute in this neighborhood". He also served as a justice of the peace in 1865. by 1875, the owner was S. Spaulding and in 1889, Charles F. Peabody, a carpenter according to the 1888 resident directory. From c. 1918-1929, the owner was John F. Peabody who kept a jewelry store in the house according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1921. Mr. Peabody appears from the 1888 resident directory to have operated a jewelry and optical store on Main Street in Ayer. The house had been built to its current configuration by that time. Mr. Peabody's widow Doris remained here until at least 1978.

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; 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; S. A. Green: Chapter VII, p. 10, 15; Vol ii, p. 30-32; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" p. 147;

**** 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.
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
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Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



20 Court Street