

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 108 26 USGS Quad Area(s) X Form Number 405, 406

Town  
Place (neighborhood or village)  
Farmers Row

## 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 24 Farmers Row

## Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential-agricultural

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1870

Source 1875 atlas

Style/Form Second Empire; Stick

## Architect/Builder

## Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

## Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn, c. 1870

## Major Alterations (with dates)

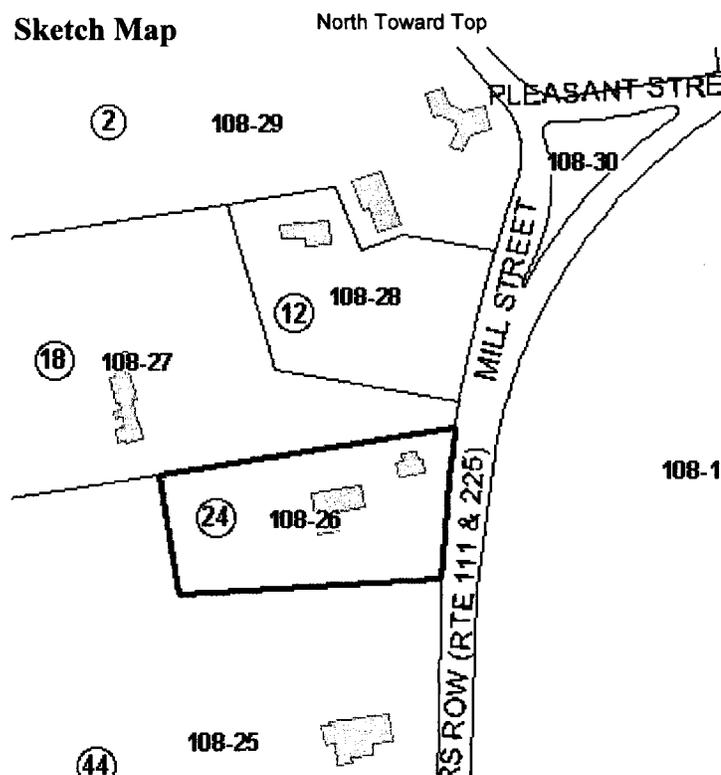
Condition Excellent

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 1.86

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 and barn at 24 Farmers Row comprise a unique property in Groton for their cohesive Second Empire and Stick style designs and dramatic setting
- \* The house is a 2-story, 2x3-bay form built on an L-shaped plan with a tall Mansard roof and clipped gables
- \* Decorative elements include the corner boards and stringcourses, eave brackets and scroll cut vergeboard, window hoods and clipped gable dormers; The junction of the L-shaped plan is the location of a shed-roofed entry porch
- \* Windows are 4/4 double-hung sash; the entry is covered by the shed porch
- \* The wood clapboard barn, much larger than the house, has an L-shaped plan and Stick style architectural details including stringcourses as are found on the house, exposed rafter tails at the eaves, gabled dormers with gable ornaments and scroll cut vergeboards; atop the main section of the roof is an ornate louvered ventilator, also with brackets at the eaves and a pyramidal hip roof
- \* The property is a working farm with horse corrals, large fields, agricultural implements and livestock in view
- \* The house and barn are well-maintained and are set amid a row of large estate quality properties on Farmers Row

### 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 first map to show the house at 24 Farmers Row is the 1875 county atlas which depicts J. Lawrence as the owner. This is James Lawrence who owned this property while living next door at 44 Farmers Row. According to Dr. Green's history, Mr. Lawrence was the oldest son of Groton native Abbott Lawrence, a prominent industrialist, namesake of the City of Lawrence, MA and of Lawrence Academy, and his wife Katherine. James was born in Boston in 1821, attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School but was not admitted to the bar. He worked for his father's Boston company, A. and A. Lawrence and Company and moved to Groton in 1871, after which time he built this house and barn for his dairy farm and occupied the house next door at 44 Farmers Row (MHC #89). May notes in "Groton Houses" that Mr. Lawrence built his barn in 1875. Mr. Lawrence lived here only a short time before his death in England in 1875. Mr., Lawrence's son, James Jr., was born in 1853, graduated from Harvard in 1874, went to Harvard Law but did not complete the course. Upon his father's death, he inherited the Lawrence Homestead and after that time engaged in dairy farming and raising stock at 24 Farmers Row, beginning in 1875. He married Caroline Estelle Reddington Mudge of Boston and had two sons and a daughter. Mr. Lawrence was the donor of a water fountain to the town on the completion of the Groton Water works in 1898. The 1930 map of Groton depicts James Lawrence as the owner but the 1929 resident directory indicates he had removed to Hyde Park. By 1939, the property was still in use as a dairy farm and the land planted in hay and crops.

### 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; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; Dr. Green, Chapter V p. 20; VIII p. 3; X p. 14, 16, 20, 27; XIII, p. 22; XIV p. 11; iii p. 239, 240, 251, 252; iv p. 320; Vol iv, p. 370-371; 1930 ~~Somes~~ map; May, "Houses" pp. 17, 18, 141;

**\*\* 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

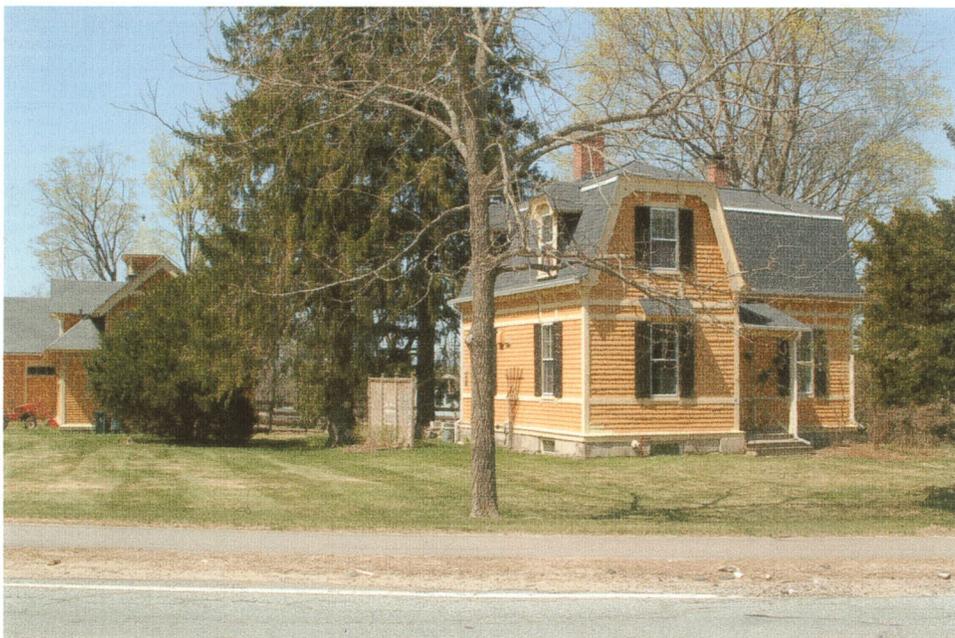
**Property Address**

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

**Area(s)**  
**Form No.**



24 Farmers Row



24 Farmers Row

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community  
Property Address

Groton  
24 Farmers Row

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:  X A  B  X 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 Stick Style Lawrence Farm at 24 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. The first map to show the house at 24 Farmers Row is the 1875 county atlas which depicts J. Lawrence as the owner. This is James Lawrence who, according to Dr. Green's history, was the oldest son of Groton native Abbott Lawrence, a prominent industrialist, namesake of the City of Lawrence, MA and of Lawrence Academy. James was born in Boston in 1821, attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School but was not admitted to the bar. He worked for his father's Boston company, A. and A. Lawrence and Company and moved to Groton in 1871, after which time he built this house and barn for his dairy farm and occupied the house next door at 44 Farmers Row (MHC #89). Mr. Lawrence lived here only a short time before his death in England in 1875. Mr., Lawrence's son, James Jr, inherited the Lawrence Homestead (44 Farmers Row) and engaged in dairy farming and raising stock at 24 Farmers Row. Mr. Lawrence was the donor of a water fountain to the town on the completion of the Groton Water works in 1898. By 1939, the property was still in use as a dairy farm and the land planted in hay and crops. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The Victorian trim on the small house and large, highly ornamented barn set amid open fields with expansive views to the west make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.