

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 133-11 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 57

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)

Address 1 Forge Village Road

Historic Name Ridge Hill Tavern

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Tavern

Date of Construction c. 1805

Source S.A.Green, Vol I, Ch. VIII, p. 9

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard, Brick

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Windows, siding replaced, c. 1995; Victorian porches added, c. 1900

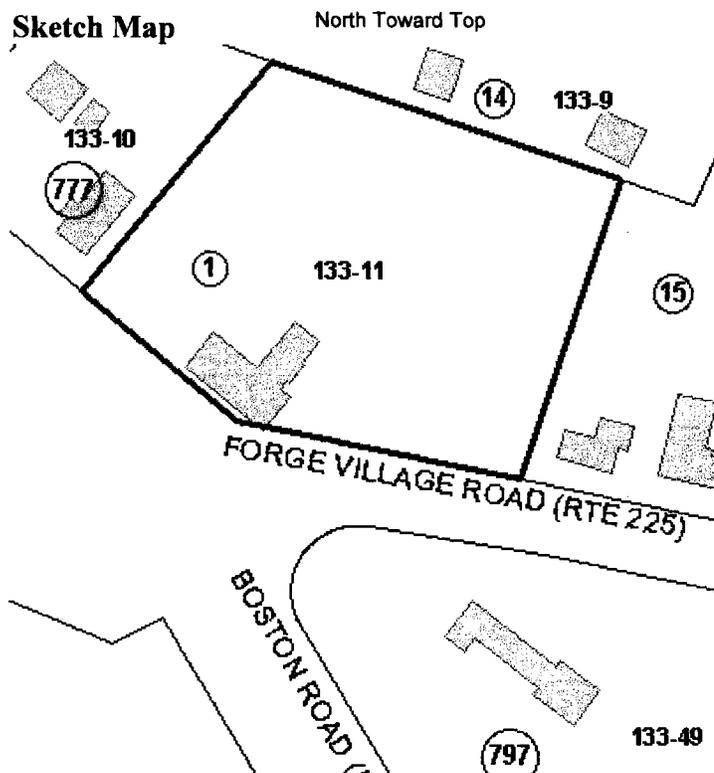
Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.7

Setting Commercial intersection of State Rts 119 and 225

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 former tavern at 1 Forge Village Road is a side-gabled wood-frame building with brick end walls, 2 1/2 stories and a 9x2-bay plan with a modern rear ell of two stories
- * Decorative features include jigsaw brackets on the two Victorian period entry porches in the façade and the rhythmic fenestration pattern in the façade which suggests the northwest end of the building began as a 5-bay form and was later enlarged with 4 additional bays
- * Windows are modern replacement sash
- * Entrances are non-original doors surmounted by 5-pane transoms
- * The Ridge Hill Tavern is one of a small number of surviving taverns in Groton; Others are located at 130 Main Street and 37 Nod Road; These retain more of their period architectural features than Ridge Hill
- * The house nearby at 189 Forge Village Road (MHC #61) is also a wood frame building with brick end walls

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 Ridge Hill Tavern, so called for the geological features in the surrounding area, was built in 1805 by Levi Parker. The location was at the intersection of two routes to Boston, the distances of which were the subject of much discussion and promotion by innholders farther east. The second floor was said to contain a ballroom. Mr. Parker sold the property to John Stevens and he to Judge Samuel Dana (resident of 108 Pleasant Street MHC #87) who sold to John Hancock Loring. Mr. Loring, whose ownership is reflected on Butler's 1832 map of Groton, conducted the house for many years and was succeeded by his son Jefferson. According to Dr. Green, after Mr. Loring came Henry Lewis Lawrence for one year, followed by his brother in law, Moses Gill from 1837-1842. Mr. Gill was followed in the chain of title by one Langdon for a short time then Kimball Farr until 1868. Mr. Farr is shown as the owner on the 1847 and 1856 maps but sold c. 1870 to John Fuzzard of Brighton, England who owned it until 1887. Subsequent managers under Mr. Fuzzard's ownership were Newell M. Jewett, Stephen Perkins of Maine who took over in 1880, before which it was vacant a short time. Mr. Perkins gave it up in 1884, when it ceased to be a public house and was occupied by Mr. Fuzzard as his dwelling. Mr. Fuzzard also owned the houses at 15 Forge Village Road and at 797 Boston Road (MHC #s58, 59). The inn served as such until the late 1800s, after which time it was adapted for use as a multiple unit dwelling, a use that endured until at least 1967. The name associated with the property on the 1930 map is the "Ridge Hill Tavern". The former inn was used as a tearoom under ownership of Mrs. Arthur Pelton in the 1940s or 1950s. The 1939 WPA map of Groton depicts the inn as an unspecified commercial building which may refer to the tea room. Local historians writing for the 1955 town tercentennial brochure indicate the inn was the site of horse auctions and horse races were held on Boston Road toward Groton Center. The roof deck and framing were removed and rebuilt with modern materials in July, 2007.

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 VIII, p. 9, 10; XVIII, p. 5; 1955 Tercentenary Brochure; 1855, 1865 state census

**** 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
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Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)
Form No.



1 Forge Village Road