

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 135-11 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 61

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 189 Forge Village Road
Historic Name Ward House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential-agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1800

Source Butler map of 1832

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood shingle; brick end walls

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached 2-bay garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Re-sided with shingles; east bay added; windows replaced with 2/2 sash; Victorian entry hood added, c. 1890

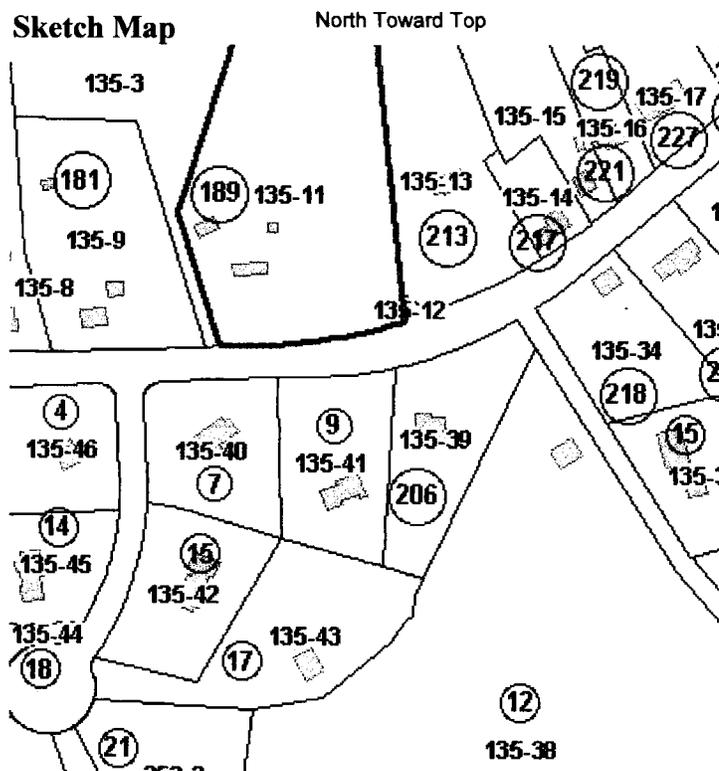
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 3

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 at 189 Forge Village Road is a wood frame Federal style design of 5x2 bays and 2 stories with brick end walls and a low ridge hipped roof; Alterations to the original design include the addition of a Victorian hood over the center entry, replacement of the original siding with wood shingles, addition of a shed roofed block at the east end of the plan and the replacement of the original sash with 2/2 units
- * Federal style features that remain in place include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade and classical surround with sidelights at the center entry
- * The detached garage appears to date from the 1930s, contains two bays covered a gradually sloped roof
- * The house is well-maintained and occupies a spacious lot
- * The former tavern nearby at 1 Forge Village Road (MHC #57) 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.

Caleb Butler's field notes for his 1832 map of Groton indicate this house was owned by Jonathan Pierce and was in its current configuration. He mentions the brick end walls and that there were at the time two chimneys rather than the current single chimney. By 1847, the owner was J. Putney and by 1850, the yeoman Cyrus Babbitt was living here with his wife Betsy and daughter Eliza as well as a boarder named Samuel Reed. Mr. Babbitt remained on the site until at least 1860 and owned 80 acres, had a house worth \$3000, 1 horse and 6 cows, a number somewhat above average for Groton. By 1870, the owner was the farmer William Ward who owned a similar amount of property although the house was valued at only \$1300 which may reflect the loss of a barn or a similar reduction in the property. Mr. Ward is shown on the county atlas from 1889. By 1939, the house was in semi agricultural use and land was planted in crops and pasture. Previous GHC research states the family remained into the 1900s although the family is not listed in the 1918 resident directory. The 1930 owner was Warren A. Fillebrown.

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, 1888, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map; 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.
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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Area(s)
Form No.



189 Forge Village Road