

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 135 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 333

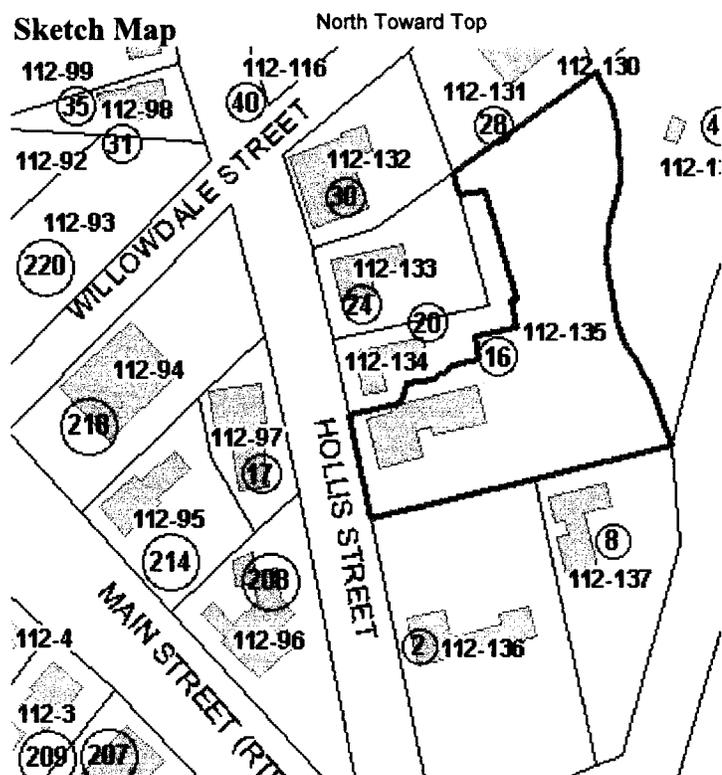
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

Address 16 Hollis Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1800

Source Estimate; 1832 Butler map

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear additions, c. 1900, 1970

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1

Setting Town Center

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 16 Hollis Street is a 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form with elements of the Federal style and two rear additions built perpendicular to the main block; a screened porch projects from the south side of the first rear addition
- * Ornamental features consist of the symmetrical fenestration pattern in the façade, gable returns, molded cornice and corner boards
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim; the center entry surround has pilasters and a transom under an open hipped porch with entablature supported by Doric columns on plinth blocks
- * Two brick chimneys that appear to have been rebuilt after initial construction occupy the rear slope of the roof
- * A stone retaining wall elevates the rear additions above the driveway on the north side of the house by approximately three feet
- * The house is in excellent condition and occupies a parcel on the densely built up southern end of Hollis Street

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 16 Hollis Street appears from the 1832 Butler map to have been occupied by the Reverend John Todd in that year. According to Butler's town history, he began preaching in Groton in 1825 when the Reverend Daniel Chaplin fell ill in the pulpit. He was born in Bennington, VT, attended Yale College and the Andover Theological Institute. He was later settled as the Groton's Union Congregational Church's first minister after the religious schism of 1826. He also served as a trustee of the Groton Academy (Later called Lawrence Academy) from 1827-1837. From c. 1847-c. 1856, the owner was Artemus Wood, a merchant with a store at the south corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, although Pleasant Street was not yet laid out. Mr. Wood, listed as a farmer by the time of the 1865 census, was the postmaster in 1849 but may not have served due to political reasons. More importantly, he was the town's first railroad station master from December 18, 1848 until 1862. By 1875, the owner was F. Shattuck and by 1889, G. S. Graves. Mr. Graves was born in 1840 in Groton, was formerly a resident of South Groton (Now the town of Ayer), served as a representative to the state legislature in 1886 and supervisor of elections in 1884. Dr. Green describes him as an owner and trustee of real estate and the former chief engineer of the fire department from 1884-1885 and a justice of the peace in 1886. He was the son of John Jackson Graves, former owner of 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). Hot air balloons sailing from Boston and from Fitchburg landed on his property in South Groton in 1860 and again in 1871. The 1921 Sanborn map describes the building as a domicile with an attached barn and a footprint similar to the current one. The 1930 owner was Nellie Hill according to the map from that year. The 1929 resident directory inexplicably lists Ms. Hill as a resident of West Groton.

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 VII, p. 6, 10, 11, 15; XV p. 22, Chapter XVII, p. 10; Vol ii, p. 16, 17, 28, 32, 33, 120, 396; Butler, pp. 195-199, 204, 205, 230; 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

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

Area(s)
Form No.



16 Hollis Street