

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
222-37, 40

54

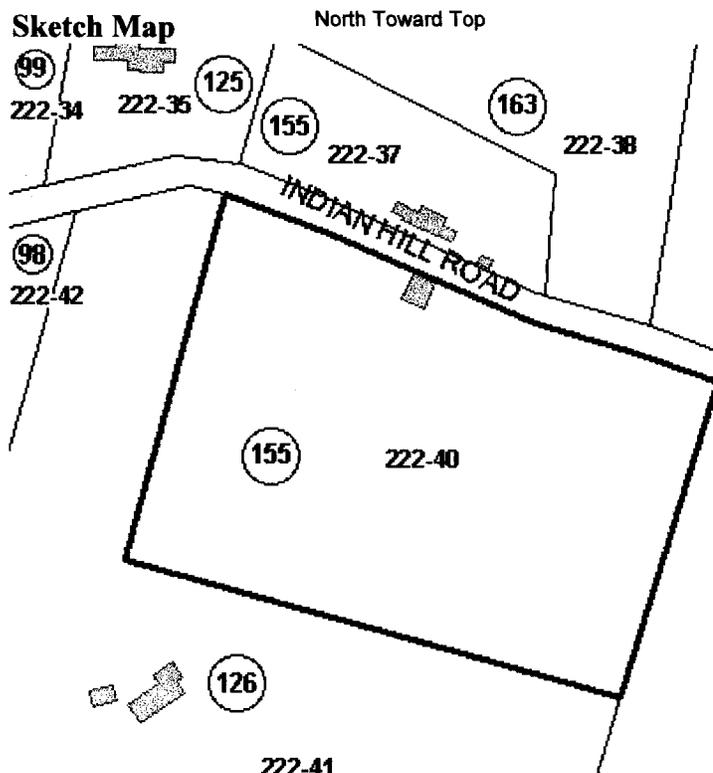
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/07

Address 155 Indian Hill Road

Historic Name Longley Homestead

Uses: Present Residential-agricultural

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1790

Source Previous GHC estimate; 1832 Butler map

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Brick end walls, Wood clapboard façade

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Additions to side elevations, c. 1980

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 11

Setting Rural

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 Federal style house at 155 Indian Hill Road is a side-gabled, 5x3-bay, 2 1/2-story form with 1-story ells projecting from the east and west elevations; Decorative features consist of the symmetrical fenestration in the facade, classical surround at the center entry, closed gables, molded cornice, corner boards and beaded window trim
- * Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash in the main block with 6/9 double-hung sash and picture windows in the ells, and a 6-pane casements in the gable peak; paired brick chimneys occupy the outer edges of the roof ridge of the main block while a modern stainless steel chimney rises from the ridge of the west ell; A post and rail fence separates the house from the road
- * The detached 19th century barn is located across the road and is a front-gabled form with the main vehicle entry facing the road; the window in the gable peak is a 6/6-pane sash with sidelights; additional fixed 6- and 14-pane sash occupy the side elevations; a transom is located over the main entry; secondary entry is through a pedestrian door in the west elevation, and swinging doors in the façade flanking the main rolling door; cladding is vertical flushboard on the side walls and on the façade; Dimensions are estimated to be around 30'x40'
- * The house and barn are among the more well-preserved in the town and retain integrity of materials and design

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 owners of the property at 155 Indian Hill Road were in 1832 Joshua Davis and his wife Sybil Patterson Davis who were married in 1793. The GHC's 1790 estimated construction date may be based on the date of the Davis' wedding. Caleb Butler noted in his 1828-29 field notes that the house had 2 stories, 2 chimneys, 5 windows across the front and brick end walls, all features that currently exist. The house was painted red at that time. By 1847, the occupant was J. M. Porter. This was John Mason Porter, a justice of the peace in 1854 and coroner in 1856. Federal agricultural census schedules of 1850 describe a farm with 86 acres, a horse, 6 cows and a value of \$3200. The owner reflected on the 1856 Walling map, 1875 and 1889 county atlases was Artemus Longley. This is Artemus Longley, a farmer born c. 1817 who was listed in agricultural census schedules from 1860 and 1870 as having 27-35 acres a horse and 5-6 cows. The property was valued at \$3000-\$3500. The Longley family continued to own the house into the 1930s. Artemus' son George, a farmer, lived here with his family from 1918 to 1930 according to the resident directories from those years. His daughters, Sarah (who died in 1928) and Jennie were school teachers in Groton for many years. A subsequent owner was Warren Pease who remodeled the house to some degree according to recollections of members of the GHC. By the 1960s, The Kerry family, including U. S. Senator and Viet Nam War veteran John Kerry, occupied the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; Butler's 1829 field notes; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; Previous GHC Research; 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; S. A. Green: Chapter XIII, p. 49; 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
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)
Form No.



155 Indian Hill Road



155 Indian Hill Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
155 Indian Hill Road

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: A B 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 Federal Style Longley Homestead at 155 Indian Hill Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. It was the home of Joshua Davis and his wife Sybil Patterson Davis who were married in 1793. The GHC's 1790 estimated construction date may be based on the date of the Davis' wedding. Caleb Butler noted in his 1828-29 field notes that the house had 2 stories, 2 chimneys, 5 windows across the front and brick end walls, all features that currently exist. Subsequent owners were John Mason Porter, a justice of the peace in 1854 and coroner in 1856 and Artemus Longley, a farmer born c. 1817 who was listed in agricultural census schedules from 1860 and 1870 as having 27-35 acres a horse and 5-6 cows. The Longley family continued to own the house into the 1930s. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The symmetrical fenestration, brick end walls and classical ornament are typical of Federal style residential construction in Groton, making the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.