

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 128 Longley Road is a 2 1/2-story, 3x2-bay, side-gabled form with elements of the Italianate style; the plan of the main block of the house is enlarged by the open front porch and the rear ell
- * The house is articulated by the paneled pilasters, gable returns, molded cornice and frieze
- * Windows are 6/6 double hung units with beaded trim; those on the first story of the façade are extended in length; The main entry has classical trim including sidelights, pilasters and is covered by the open flat-roofed porch with deep cornice
- * Brick chimneys rise from both edges of the roof ridge
- * The banked barn is a gable-roofed form oriented perpendicular to the road and clad in vertical flushboard with a vehicle door and gable peak window in the principal elevation; additional openings filled by double-hung sash pierce the side elevation; the granite and brick foundation elevates the building above grade at the south side where vehicle openings exist; a louvered ventilator occupies the roof ridge near the road
- * The house and barn are well-maintained and retain integrity of design; the scale of the house is typical for rural agricultural properties in Groton but the barn may be among the larger local examples at approximately 40'x80'

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 plaque on the front of the house gives a construction date of 1857, although the site may have been occupied in 1847 by a predecessor building owned by George Fitch. The initial owner of 128 Longley Road was Zachariah Fitch, a farmer born c. 1834. According to agricultural census schedules from 1860, Mr. Fitch had a farm valued at \$3000, comprising 115 acres and including 1 horse and 3 cows. The property was enlarged to 160 acres and its value increased to \$8000 by 1870. Zachariah remained here until at least 1889 according to the county atlas of that year. The 1888 resident directory lists Zachariah as a saw mill operator on Hollis Street which may refer to the present day Longley Road. By 1918, the owner was James Fitch, a farmer who lived here through the time of the 1930 map of Groton. Harlan Fitch, another relative, occupied the house and farmed the land until his death in 2006.

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, 1888, 1918, 1929; Dr. Green. Chapter IV, p. 18-20, XVII, p. 15; Vol. iii, p. 154-156, Vol. ii, p 287; Tercentenary booklet, 1955, pp, 59-60; May, Groton Plantation, p. 15; 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.



128 Longley Road



128 Longley Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
128 Longley 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 Farnsworth House at 133 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The first owner of the house was Zachariah Fitch, a farmer born c. 1834. According to agricultural census schedules from 1860, Mr. Fitch had a farm valued at \$3000, comprising 115 acres and including 1 horse and 3 cows. Zachariah remained here until at least 1889 according to the county atlas of that year. By 1918, the owner was James Fitch, a farmer who lived here through the time of the 1930 map of Groton. Harlan Fitch, another relative, occupied the house and farmed the land until his death in 2006. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade and its setting amid farm fields that contain the large barn make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.