

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113-5 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 8(also 350)

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)

Address 154 Main Street  
Historic Name Dr. Joshua Green House  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction 1851  
Source Previous GHC Research; May, "Houses", p. 169

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached shed

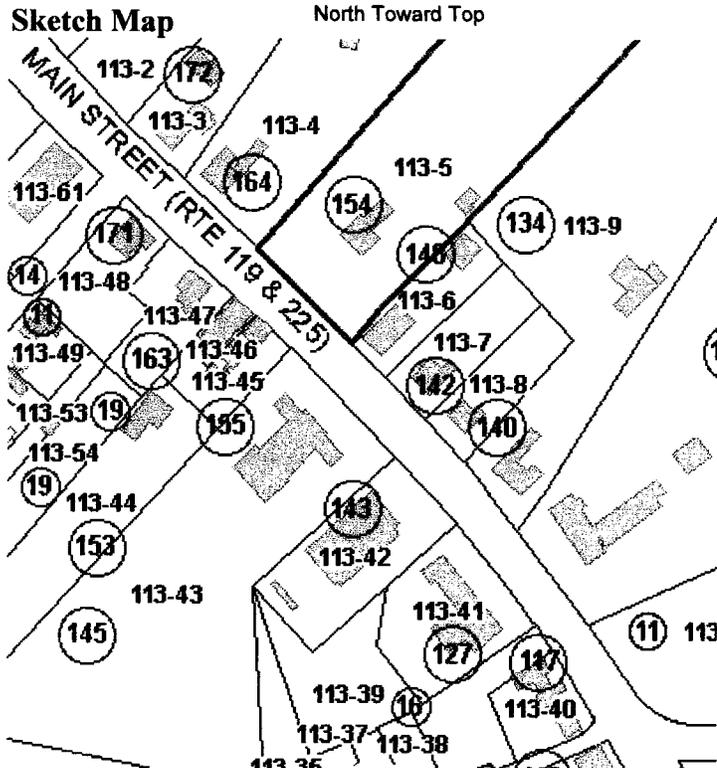
Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 6.46

Setting Town Center



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 154 Main Street is a 2 1/2-story, 4x2-bay, side-gabled form with elements of the Italianate style; the plan of the main block of the house is enlarged by the open north side porch and the rear ell
- \* The house is articulated by the paneled pilasters, gable returns, molded cornice with dentils and frieze
- \* Windows are 6/6 double hung units with prominent hoods; 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 cornice and ornamental pedestals above; the porch is supported by Ionic columns as is the north side porch
- \* Brick chimneys rise from both edges of the roof ridge
- \* The detached shed appears to have been built c. 1900 and is clad in wood clapboard
- \* The house is well-maintained and retains integrity of design; the scale of the house is typical for Groton Center but is of special interest for the Ionic columns, deep setback from Main Street and views of Gibbet Hill in the east or rear

### 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 Dr. Joshua Green House was built for the doctor in 1851. It was valued in 1860 at \$4000 and he kept a cow and a horse on the property, possibly in the existing carriage barn. Dr. Green was born in Wendell, MA in 1797, attended Harvard College, graduating in 1818, then studied medicine in NJ. He was appointed apothecary at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1821, the year it opened. He moved to Groton about 1825 and retired in 1835 from medical practice due to ill health. Dr. Green taught school at the Moors District School near South Groton during his college training and boarded with Major Samuel and Susanna Lawrence on Farmers Row where he met his future wife Eliza Lawrence whom he married in 1824. Eliza was a sister of the industrialists Abbott, Luther and William Lawrence. The Greens had 6 children. He was a trustee of Lawrence Academy from 1831-1867, served as a representative to the General Court in 1836 and 1837. He died in 1875 at his daughter and son in law's home in NJ. By 1889, the house was owned by Dr. Samuel Green, Joshua's son and historian of Groton. Samuel graduated from Harvard in 1851, practiced medicine in Boston, served in the Civil War and on hospital ships. From 1865-1872, he was superintendent of the Boston Dispensary and Boston City Physician from 1871-1880; He also served as overseer of Harvard College, was the designer of the town seal, donor of the Baptist Church clock in 1897 and librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He lived in Groton later in life, splitting his time between Groton and Boston. The "Groton Landmark" of May 14, 1910 notes he stayed here on holidays. By 1921, the outbuilding was in use as an auto house. The 1930 map lists Lawrence Academy as the owner.

### 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; Dr. Green, IX, 17, 18; XI, 7; XVI, 15; XVIII, 5; Vol. ii, p. 14, 17, 98, 118, 140; iii, 20-22; Tercentenary booklet, p. 22; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; "Groton Landmark" of May 14, 1910

**\*\* 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.**



154 Main Street



154 Main Street