

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 113-45 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 352

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 157 Main Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source 1856 Walling map

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

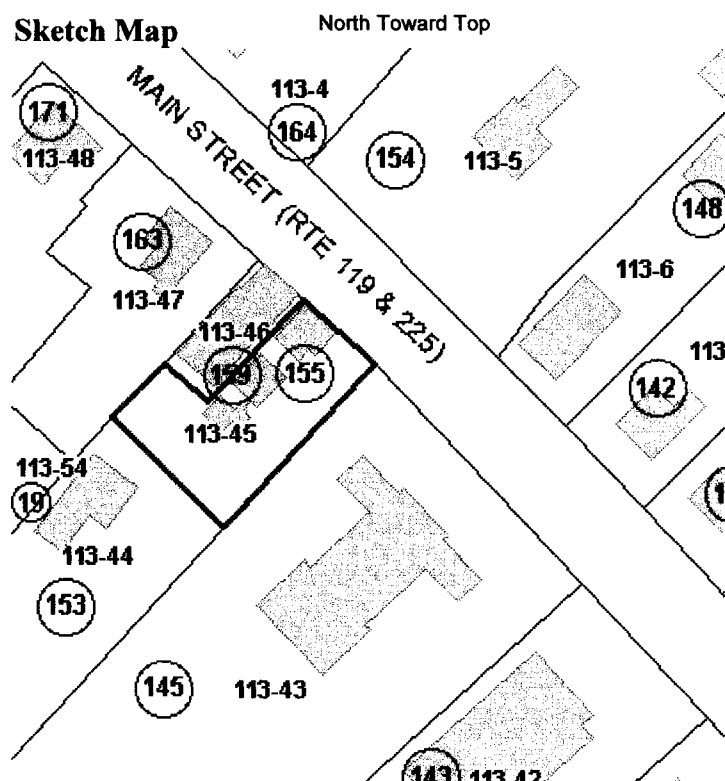
Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage .36

Setting Town center

## 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 store at 157 Main Street is a 2 1/2-story, 4x2-bay, side-gabled form with elements of the Federal style; the plan of the main block of the building is enlarged by the rear ell
- \* The property is articulated mainly by the symmetrical fenestration in the facade
- \* Windows are mainly 8/12 double hung units with beaded trim except those on the first story of the facade which are fixed pane display windows
- \* The main entry is recessed between the display windows and lacks ornament
- \* The building is well-maintained and is built on a scale typical for Groton Center; it one of several buildings that appears to have had a residential function replaced by a principally commercial use sometime early in the 20th century

### 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 initial owner of the house at 157 Main Street, built c. 1850, was George Brigham Jr. (born in Groton, 1813) who also owned the shop at 155 Main Street (MHC# 351). State census schedules from 1855 list the senior George Brigham (born c. 1785 and occupant of 153 Main Street, MHC #7) as a harness maker and the younger George D. Brigham (born c. 1813) as a merchant occupying the same dwelling despite the 1856 map which shows them as living separately at 153 and 157 Main Street. Mr. Brigham owned the house at 157 Main Street until at least 1889 according to county atlases from 1875 and 1889. Mr. Brigham served as town clerk from 1855-1892, justice of the peace in 1879 and 1886, married his wife Mary Jane in 1837 and had 8 children. He died 1892 in his house as a result of a fall from a ladder and, according to Dr. Green, may have been the best - known man in town, always kind and obliging. The 1921 Sanborn map indicates the house had an alternate use that may have been a confectioner's shop. The 1930 was Mrs. H. H. Woods. Resident directories list Harold H. Woods a wool broker in Boston.

### 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; 1896, 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; Dr. Green, IX, p. 24; XV, p. 21; Vol ii, p. 27, 32, 33, 283; Vol iii, p. 452; Vol iv, p. 322, 329, 330; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; State census schedules from 1855 list the senior George Brigham (born c. 1785) as a harness maker and the younger George D. Brigham (born c. 1813) as a merchant occupying the same dwelling

**\*\* 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  
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Boston, MA 02125

**Area(s)**  
**Form No.**



157 Main Street