

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 2 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 358

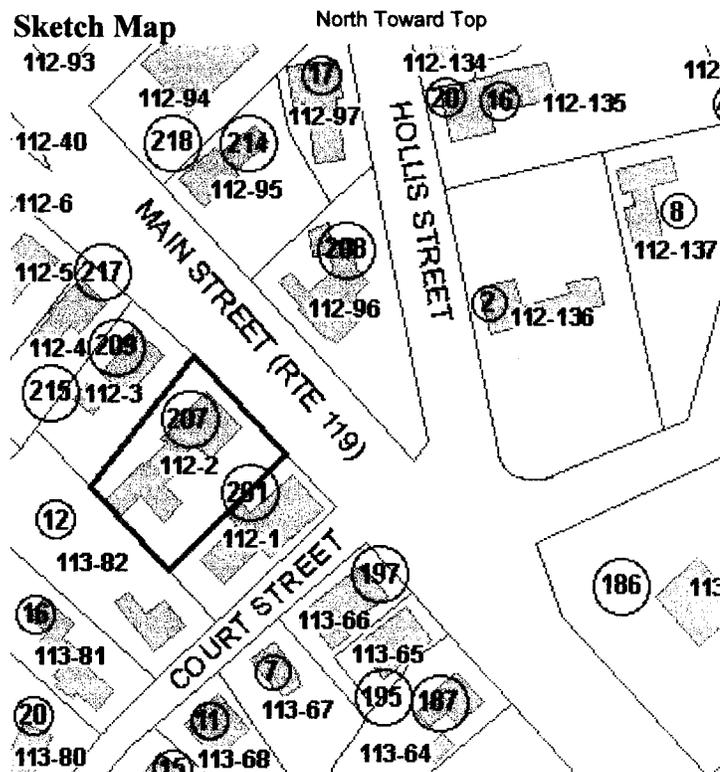
Town Groton
 Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

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 207 Main Street

Historic Name Dr. Smith House

Uses: Present Commercial office

Original Residence

Date of Construction c. 1838

Source Dr. Green, p. 307, Vol. 2

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

North porch added, c. 1900; modern windows and door in barn, c. 1960

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .25

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 207 Main Street is a Greek Revival style 2 1/2-story, 5x4-bay, side-gabled form with a 1-story rear ell and attached barn with gable roof oriented parallel to the main house; Secondary masses include the open porch on the north side wall, Classical Revival style entry porch over the center entry and the Victorian enclosed entry porch with paneled posts, dentils and paired brackets over the south side entry
- * Decorative features include the four tall brick chimneys at the corners of the main block, symmetrical fenestration in the façade, closed gable, corner boards and molded cornice
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash except those on the first story of the façade which are triple hung examples; the opening in the south gable peak has a 6/6 sash with 4-pane sidelights; The center entry has 1/2-length sidelights and narrow trim
- * The attached barn has a wood clapboard exterior and square ventilator with pyramidal roof; the main street elevation has a mow door at the second level and modern picture windows and pedestrian door
- * The house and barn are well-maintained and are of a larger than average scale compared to others in the Groton Center Area

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 site of the house at 207 Main Street is vacant on the 1832 Butler map but is noted as the residence of Dr. N. Smith on the 1847 map indicating a construction date between those years. This is Dr. Norman Smith, a native of Mont Vernon, NH who was born c. 1808, came to Groton in 1837 and worked at making ornamental boxes in a shop located at 95 Main Street (MHC #16). He attended the Vermont Medical College in Woodstock, and returned to Groton after graduating in 1843. His first wife was Harriet Smith of Francestown, NH whom he married in 1838. The death of his first wife in 1839 led to four subsequent marriages for Dr. Smith in 1843 (to Harriet's sister Marriet who died in 1846), in 1847 (to Maria Brown who died in 1852), in 1853 (to Sarah Young who died in 1856) and in 1866 (to Mary Jane Lee who lived until at least 1890). Dr. Smith had a total of seven children by his five wives. Dr. Smith's surgical practice covered northern Middlesex County and Hillsborough, NH County. His training prepared him for service in the army as surgeon of the 6th Massachusetts Militia during the opening months of the Civil War when he practiced in Washington, DC and Baltimore. Dr. Green notes that Dr. Smith traveled to Europe in 1875, returned to Nashua in 1879 and later to Groton, albeit with a reduced practice due to his health which was compromised by his military service. By this time, he was living on Common Street although he appears to have kept offices in his house on Main Street where he practiced until his death in 1888. His funeral service included Masonic rites and he was subsequently said to embody fun and humor. Dr. Smith served as a marshal at the town's bicentennial celebration in 1855 and was admitted to the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1865. Subsequent owners were Dr. Edward Hubbard Winslow from 1875-77; Dr. Washington Stearns from 1878-1885; Dr. William Barnard from 1885-1905; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Flanders during the early 20th century. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1896 depict the barn as a wagon shed and show no north side porch. By 1901, the north side porch was in place. The house was adapted for use as a multiple unit residence and the barn served as a beauty shop and a gift

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Green, Vol 1, Chapter XIII, p. 5; Vol 2, pp. 307, 322-323, 358-360; Vol 3, pp. 31, 32, 64; Sanborn Fire insurance maps, 1896-1906; 1875 and 1889 atlases; 1856 Walling map; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; 1930 Tercentenary map (illegible); Groton Tax Valuations, 1877; 1855 and 1865 state census; 1855 and 1865 state censuses; Town Assessor's map, c. 1970; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" p. 118; Resident directory, 1888;

**** 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.

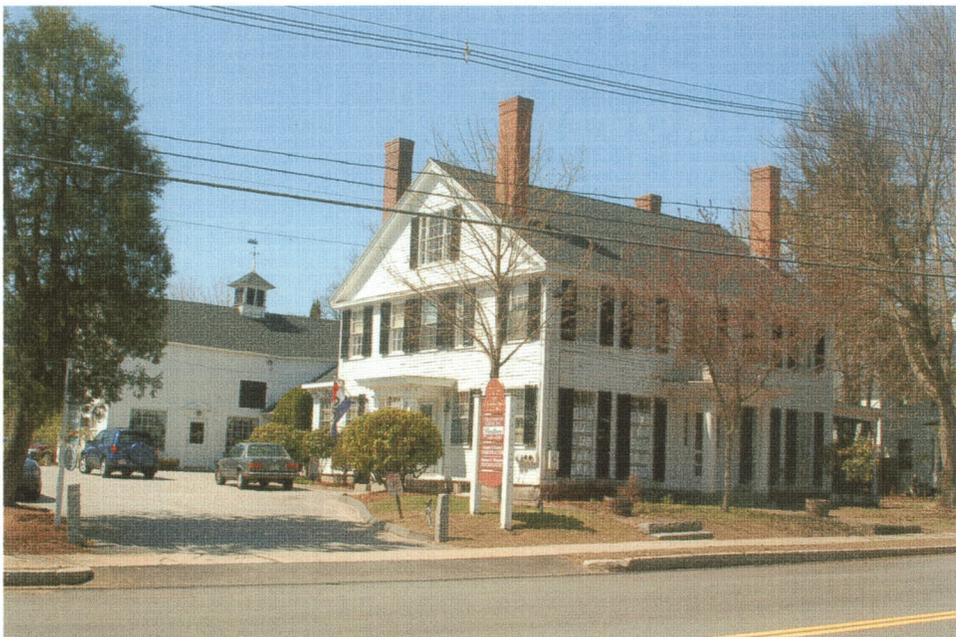
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)
Form No.



207 Main Street