

## FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 110-41 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 445, 446

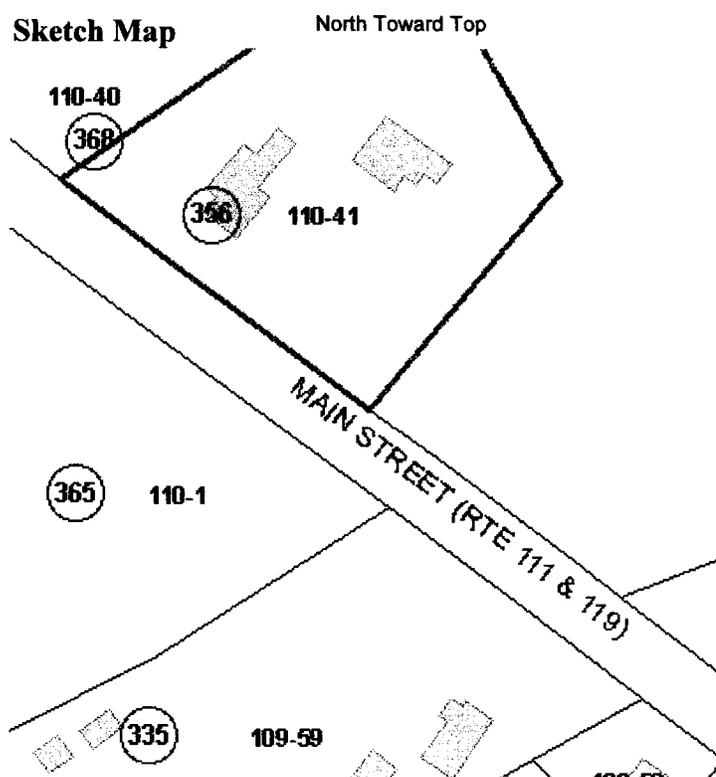
Town Groton  
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

### 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 356 Main Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1840

Source Butler's 1828-1829 field notes

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Bay window added, c. 1900

Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 1.4

Setting Outside town center on RT 119

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 356 Main Street is a side-gabled, 5x3-bay, 2 1/2-story form with a 1 1/2-story ell and connected shed projecting from the northeast elevation; The house is oriented perpendicular to the road; Decorative features consist of the symmetrical fenestration, classical surround at the center entry, closed gable, molded cornice, corner boards and beaded window trim; The 3-sided bay has paneled pilasters at the corners and full entablature supporting the flat roof
  - \* Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with fixed 12 and 4-pane sash in the bay
  - \* Three tall brick chimneys occupy all but the southwest corner of the main roof
- Access to the ell is via a pair of swinging doors in the southwest elevation positioned below a fixed 6-pane sash
- \* The detached barn appears to possess dimensions suggestive of an 18th century English barn, approximately 30'x40' and is oriented with the eave side toward the road; Vehicle access is through rolling doors lit from above by a transom; additional openings contain small fixed sash and a pedestrian door; siding is vertical flushboard; additional gabled masses can be seen at the southeast corner of the barn but are unidentifiable from the road
  - \* The house and barn are well-preserved and retain integrity of materials and design; the site is elevated slightly above Main Street a short distance northwest of the town center

### 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.*

Butler's 1832 map of Groton has John Simonds at this location and says in his field notes from 1828-1829 that was an "old" 1-story, 1-chimney form with 2 windows across the façade, a much smaller building than currently exists, suggesting the house was rebuilt shortly afterward. By 1847, Joshua Gilson (born c. 1797; married to Ann) was the owner and he probably occupied the current building. Mr. Gilson remained here until at least 1889 and was recorded in agricultural census records of 1850-1870 as having between 25 and 90 acres, 1 horse and 1 or 2 cows and a farm worth \$4000, an amount slightly above average. On the 1889 county atlas, Mr. Gilson is shown as owning both this and the neighboring house at 368 Main Street (MHC ###). Dr. Green notes he was an organizer of the 1855 town bicentennial and a justice of the peace in 1858. By 1939, the farm was well-maintained and planted in hay, crops and orchards. The 1930 owner was the farmer W. H. Whitehall.

### 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; 1939 WPA map; Federal census agricultural schedules, 1850-1880; Previous GHC Research; 1896, 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; Butler's town history; Dr. Green, Chapter XVIII, p. 2; Vol ii, p. 31; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; 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.**



356 Main Street



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