

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 110-40 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 447, 448

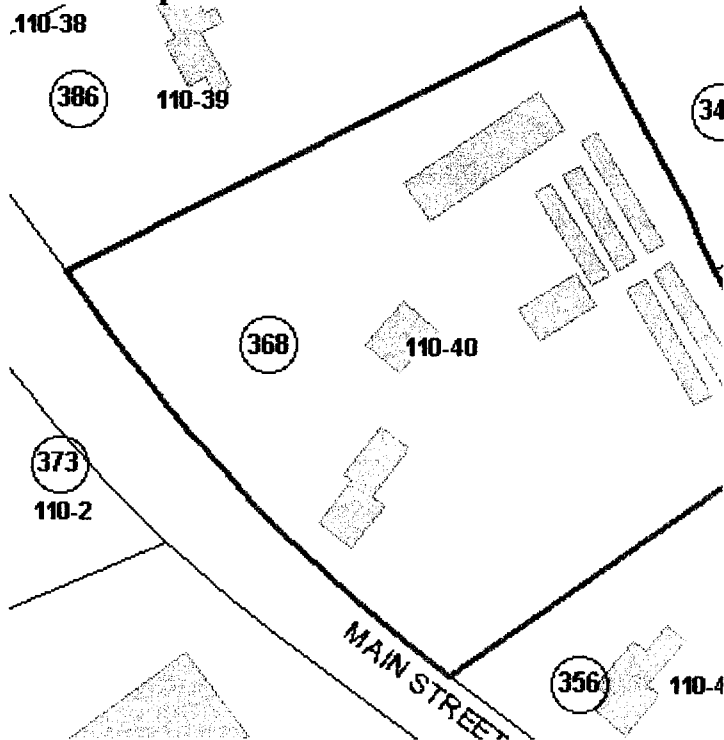
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

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 368 Main Street
Historic Name Herb Lyceum
Uses: Present Restaurant
Original Residential-agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1840

Source 1828-1829 field notes, 1847 map
Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Unknown

Wall/Trim Unknown

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn, modern sheds

Major Alterations (with dates)

Adapted for use as a restaurant

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 3.34

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 368 Main Street is a side-gabled, 5x3-bay, 2 1/2-story form with a 1-story shed projecting from the northeast elevation; The house is oriented perpendicular to the road; The gable roofed shed has three vehicle openings with arched tops
- * Decorative features consist of the symmetrical fenestration, classical surround with sidelights at the center entry, closed gable, molded cornice, corner boards and beaded window trim
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with sidelights flanking the example in the southwest gable peak
- * Two tall brick chimneys rise from the ridge and from the front slope of the main roof; a third is atop the shed roof
- * The detached barn is difficult to see but appears to have a vehicle door in the southwest, wood clapboard siding and sparsely placed 6/6 sash; Additional outbuildings that are partially visible are greenhouses, some of which appear to be made of plastic sheeting 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.

The 1832 Butler map suggests this is the house of Ezekiel Lawrence. It is described in Butler's field notes of 1828-1829 as having 1 story, 1 chimney and 2 windows across the front. He also notes that it was small and old, thus ascertaining that the house was later rebuilt. By the time of Butler's 1847 map, this was the house of William Livermore and had probably been rebuilt to its current configuration judging by its design. Butler's town history notes Mr. Livermore was born c. 1803 and served as a representative to the general court in 1829-30. Dr. Green notes he was born in Groton in 1803, worked as a farmer, married his wife Harriet in 1832 and had two children. He also served town treasurer in 1845. Mr. Livermore remained here until at least 1875 and was recorded in agricultural census records of 1850 and 1860 as having between 24 and 28 acres, property valued at \$3000-\$3300, a horse and a cow, all round the town average. By 1889, J. Gilson's name appears associated with the house on the county atlas. This may be the John Gilson who was listed as a resident of the house in the 1865 state census. Mr. Gilson was a trader who was married and had two children. There are three men named John Gilson, all farmers on Main Street, listed in 1888 resident directory. The 1930 owner was the farmer John L. Gilson. The WPA map of 1939 shows the farm in good condition and planted in crops and orchards.

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, Vol ii, p. 14, 15, 17, 73, 74, 119, 295 WPA map of 1939; 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.
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)
Form No.



368 Main Street

