

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 221-68 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 450, 451

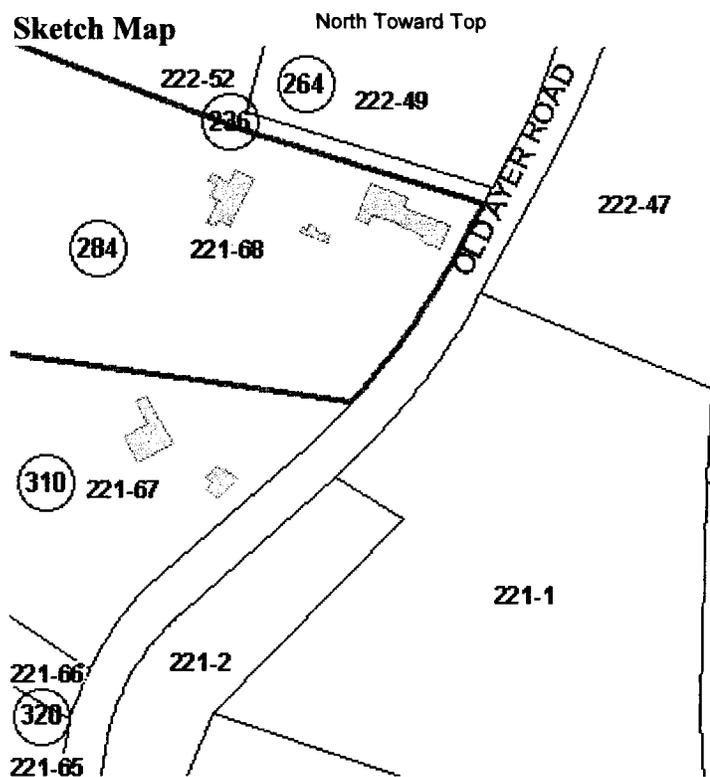
Town Groton  
Place (neighborhood or village)

## 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 284 Old Ayer Road

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential-agricultural

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source 1847, 1856 maps

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

1 attached and 1 detached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 16

Setting Rural

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 Victorian Eclectic style residence at 284 Old Ayer Road is a front-gabled, 2 1/2-story form with a 2-story, 4-bay rear ell and a hipped porch over the east and south portions of the first story of the 2x2-bay main block; The ell connects to a gabled barn oriented parallel to the house and ell; a shed dormer occupies the roof of the shed and small 3-sided bay windows are under the front porch and on the north side of the ell
- \* Ornament consists of the gable returns, corner pilasters, frieze and molded cornice; the porch has Doric columns on paneled plinth blocks and gabled crest over the off-center entry
- \* Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with prominent hoods except for those in the rear ell which have plain trim
- \* The side-hall entry has full-length sidelights and paneled pilasters
- \* A brick chimney with corbel occupies the center of the roof ridge in the main block
- \* The attached barn at the rear of the ell has board and batten siding and additions at the north and south elevations; The detached barn in the back yard has a gabled roof oriented parallel to the road and perpendicular to the house; cladding is vertical flushboard; openings visible from the road are 6 pairs of swinging vehicle-sized doors
- \* The scale and materials of the house and barns are typical for Groton although the Victorian form and details are less common in the town than the Federal style examples

### 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 house at 284 Old Ayer Road is located on land formerly owned by an original Groton proprietor named Daniel Pearce. A subsequent owner was William Russell, namesake of Russell Lane, a former town right of way leading west from Old Ayer Road just north of this house. The initial owner of the current house from the time of its construction c. 1847-c. 1856 was S. Boynton according to the Butler map of that year. This is probably Sumner Boynton (b. 1800, wife Mary), owner of 44 acres, a horse, 2 cows and property valued at \$1600, slightly below average for Groton. He removed the old house and built the existing one on to the previously existing ell that is now the rear of 284 Old Ayer Road. By 1875, the owner was Stephen Kendall who increased the value of the farm to \$6500 and the number of cows to 9 by 1870 according to federal census agricultural schedules. By 1876, William H. Drake lived here. A succession of owners led to the 1930 ownership of Malcom MacGregor, a relative of the current owner. The WPA map of 1939 indicates the farm was planted in orchards and hay.

### 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; May, "Groton Plantation", p. 77; Dr. Green; 1930 Somes map; Resident directories, 1918, 1929; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" pp. 87-88;

**\*\* 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  
Boston, MA 02125

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**



284 Old Ayer Road



284 Old Ayer Road