

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 243-30 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 454, 455

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)

Address 235 Old Dunstable Road

Historic Name

Uses: Present Residential-agricultural

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source Butler's field notes, estimate

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

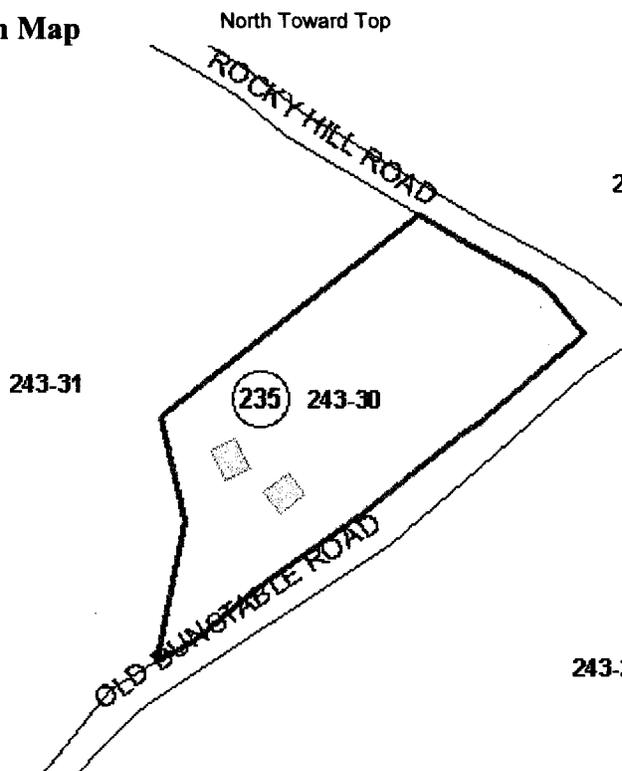
Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Sketch Map



243-:

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2.5

Setting Rural

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.

- * 235 Old Dunstable Road is a Victorian Eclectic style 1 1/2-story, steeply pitched front-gabled, 5x2-bay form with a hipped hood over the center entry
- * Architectural details include the molded cornice, symmetrical fenestration in the façade, gable returns and corner boards
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim; While the first story has symmetrical window placement, the second has 2 sash on the south side and 1 on the north side of the façade
- * The center entry has a plain surround covered by a hood supported carved brackets
- * The detached barn is a front-gabled, 3-bay, wood clapboard building clad in wood clapboards; A pair of swinging door gives access to the center of the principal elevation while three additional openings are filled with 6/6 sash; The steeply pitched roof, gable returns and corner boards simulate the trim found on the house
- * The front gabled form is unusual in Groton although not unique; other examples are located at 179 Main Street and 2 Farmers Row

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.

Caleb Butler's 1832 map and 1828-1928 field notes describe this as the home of Simeon Gilson, owner of an "old" house of 1 story and 5 windows across the façade. This probably describes a building that was a predecessor to the current one which, judging by its architectural form, was built c. 1850. By 1847, the owner of the property was Phineas H. Gilson who died in 1855 at the age of 45 years. By 1870, the owner was George Nutting who had 300 acres, a parcel much larger than average. His property was valued in federal census agricultural schedules at \$2000, just below average which may be explained by the fact that two thirds of his land was unimproved woodland. Mr. Nutting was listed as a farmer in the 1888 resident directory and remained in this location until at least 1889 according to county atlases. The 1930 owner was William P. Wharton, a philanthropist, land conservator and ornithologist who lived at 152 Broadmeadow Road (MHC #93). By 1939, the property was considered semi-agricultural with some pasture.

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, 1888, 1918, 1929; Butler's town history; May, "Groton Plantation", Butler's town history, p. 229; S. A. Greebn on Phinaes H. Gilson, Vol ii, p. 289; 1930 Somes Map;

**** 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
Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)

Form No.



235 Old Dunstable Road