

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 15 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 390

Town Groton Center
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

Photograph

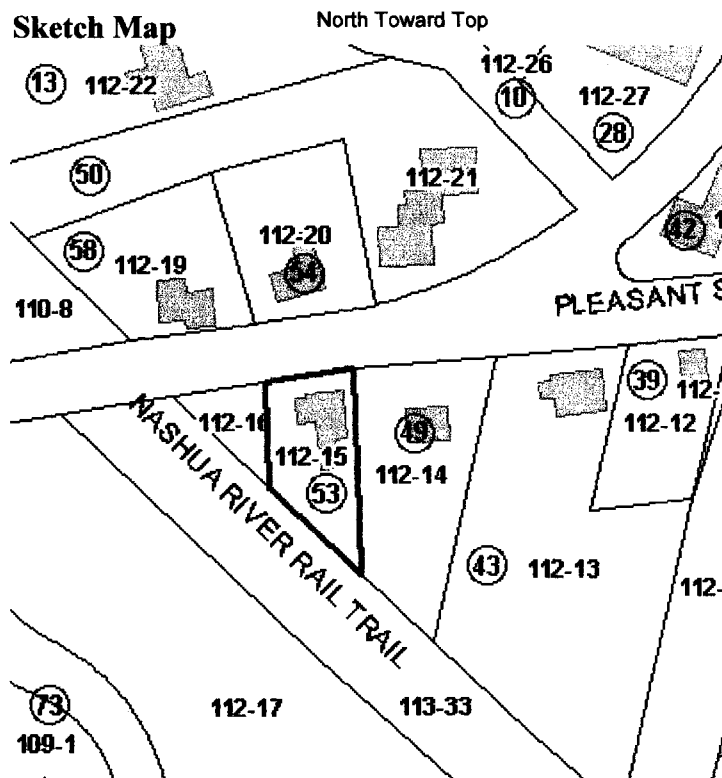
(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

Address 53 Pleasant Street
Historic Name
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1840
Source 1847 Butler map

Style/Form Federal
Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Concrete
Wall/Trim Wood clapboards
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure

Sketch Map



Major Alterations (with dates)
Windwos replaced with modern sash, c. 2000

Condition Fair
Moved no yes Date
Acreage .5
Setting Town Center

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.

- * The house at 53 Pleasant Street is a 1 1/2-story, front-gabled, 3x2-bay form with elements of the Federal style; the plan is enlarged by the enclosed shed porch on the first story of the rear elevation and by the 1-story shed-roofed addition at the west elevation
- * Decorative features include the cornice and corner boards
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung units which do not appear to be original; The side-hall entry has classical trim including entablature, paneled pilasters and sidelights
- * A stout brick chimney occupies the center of the roof ridge while a second smaller chimney rises from the roof of the rear ell
- * The house occupies a parcel on a side street in Groton Center and is smaller in scale than most other houses but is comparable to its neighbor at 39 Pleasant

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 earliest historic map containing an image of 53 Pleasant Street is the 1847 Butler map but it gives no owner name. By 1856, the owner names associated with the house is Mrs. H. Fitch. This is Hannah Fitch who was born c. 1791 and lived alone in 1875 except for a boarder, the 45-year-old Otis Shattuck. By 1875 it is J. K. Bennett. This may be Judge Josiah K. Bennett who was born in Groton in 1831, graduated Harvard College in 1853, participated extensively in local politics and legal matters, taught Sunday School and at a district school for a time, was appointed judge of the First District Court of Middlesex County in 1872 and died at Ayer, 1874. It is unlikely that Mr. Bennett occupied the house and that his ownership was recorded prior to his death. By 1889, the owner was G. Chase, about whom little else is known other than that his given name was George according to the 1888 resident directory. The 1930 owners were Elizabeth and Thomas Haley who worked as a houseman.

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", p. 77; Butler's town history; Dr. Green, Vol ii, p. 121-122; 1930 Somes Map; 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
Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)

Form No.



53 Pleasant Street