

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 116-10 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 149

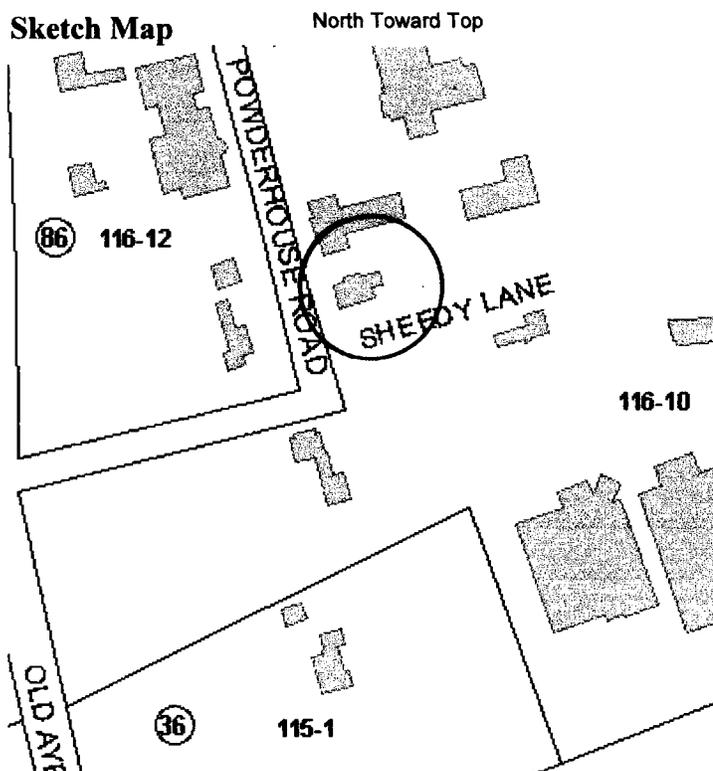
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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 39 Powderhouse Road

Historic Name Dr. Green Dormitory-Wells-Ebert Hous

Uses: Present Dormitory

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1836

Source May, "Houses", p. 73

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder Captain Peter Nutting

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Additions to original Federal style block, c. 1900; south entry porch added c. 1960

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreeage Part of Lawrence Academy campus

Setting School campus

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 Greek Revival style house at 39 Powderhouse Road is a side-gabled, 6x3-bay, 2 1/2-story form with a 1-story hipped porch over the west side elevation; A plain gabled entry hood exists over the principal south-facing entry which has sidelights and cornice A 2-story addition has been made to the east gable end and a 1-story gabled ell has been added to the north (rear) elevation; Decorative features consist of the classical surround at the center entry, closed gable, molded cornice and corner boards; Doric columns support the cornice of the hipped porch
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with triple hung units in the first story of the west gable end and a 6/6 sash with sidelights in the west gable peak; A band of 4 mullied windows has been installed in the eastern end of the first story of the façade which has asymmetrical fenestration, suggesting some series of additions after original construction
- * 2 tall brick chimneys occupy the west end of the gabled roof while 2 additional lower chimneys rise from the ridge farther east
- * The house is in good condition and has been adapted for use from a resident to a student dormitory on the Lawrence Academy campus

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 indicates Powderhouse Road had not yet been laid out. Previous research in Lawrence Academy archives and elsewhere by the GHC indicates the house was built in 1836 by Captain Peter Nutting for the Rev. George Wells, the pastor of the First Congregational Church. Capt. Nutting was also the builder of the Park House at 36 Main Street and possibly the house at 47 Main Street (MHC #s 18, 19) as well as the Chicopee School on Chicopee Row (MHC ###). It is said to have been the initial house on Powderhouse Road which was then called High Street. The name change came about as the result of the Revolutionary War period structure said to be located near this spot. By 1847, the street had been built and Daniel Needham was the owner of this building. He was born in Salem, MA in 1822, attended Lawrence Academy (then Groton Academy) and returned to town after studying law in Salem. He served as aide to Governor Boutwell during his 2-year term as Massachusetts governor in 1851-52, was town treasurer in 1853-54, and moved to Vermont from 1855-1863. When he returned here, he was elected to the state house of representatives in 1866 and the state senate in 1867, was a trustee of Lawrence Academy, served on the town school committee and worked as a lawyer. The owners reflected on the 1856 Walling map are J. Jay (Probably intended as Joy) and Son who preceded the Rev. L. R. Philips and Mrs. Henry Robbins. By 1889, the owner was the estate of Mrs. Robbins but the occupant (specified as "OC") was the Rev. Joshua Young who delivered a prayer at the funeral of Harpers Ferry raider John Brown and was one of several prominent abolitionists in Groton. He attended Bowdoin College and ministered in Groton from 1875- c. 1890. After subsequent owners, Emma Gerrish (wife of Charles Gerrish, storekeeper in Groton Center, see MHC #103) inherited it. Their daughter married Clarence Ebert, the Groton Tree Warden in the 1930s. The 1930 map of Groton depicts this as the C. Ebert School for Boys. Lawrence Academy bought the house in 1959 for use as a dormitory. The school changed the name in 1965 to Dr. Green House in honor of the town historian. The 1921 Sanborn map shows the house

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; Butler's town history; Dr. Green, Vol. iv, p. 400, 271; iii, 153, 240, 241; ii, 2, 15, 17, 26, 28, 30, 33, 73, 74, 110, 112, 119, 297, 376, 377; Vol iv, p. 193-194;; May, "Houses" pp. 73-74;

**** 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.



39 Powderhouse Road



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