

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 460

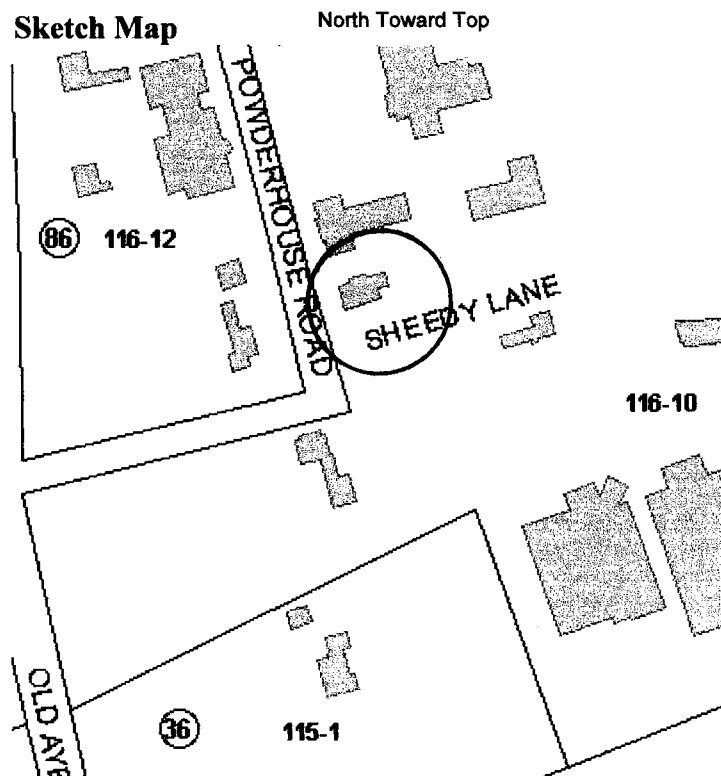
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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 61 Powderhouse Road

Historic Name H. A. Bancroft House

Uses: Present L. A. Alumni Development

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1850

Source 1847 Butler map

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Adapted for use as school offices

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 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 Lawrence Academy Alumni Development House at 61 Powderhouse Road is a 2 1/2-story, 3x2-bay, side-gabled form with elements of the Italianate style; the plan of the main block of the house is enlarged by the open front porch with jigsaw brackets and slim posts on the west elevation, the rear shed addition and by the attached barn and ell on the south gable end
- * The house is articulated by the corner pilasters, gable returns and the molded cornice with deep eaves and modillions
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double hung units with prominent hoods; those on the first story of the façade and north side elevations are triple hung units; The main entry has plain trim including sidelights
- * Corbelled brick chimneys rise from the ridge and the east slope of the roof
- * The attached barn is a gable-roofed form oriented perpendicular to the main block and clad in wood clapboard with a vehicle door now enclosed with a pedestrian entry and 2 double-hung windows in the west elevation; The barn, which is connected to the house by a 2-story gabled ell, has a perpendicular gabled addition at the south end wall
- * The house and barn are well-maintained and retain integrity of design; the scale and materials of the house is typical for Groton Center; The barn is approximately 20'x40' and is the sole example 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 H. A. Bancroft House is so labeled on the 1856 Walling map of Middlesex County and on the 1875 county atlas. Despite the village setting of the house, Mr. Bancroft was listed in the census as a yeoman and a farmer. Dr. Green states Henry Augustus Bancroft was born in Boston in 1816, married Caroline Robbins in 1840 and had four children. After his death in Groton in 1882, subsequent owners were Mr. Bond and then Michael Sheedy in 1888. Inexplicable, the 1888 resident directory lists a farmer named Michael Sheedy as living on Station Ave. Mr. Sheedy served as Chairman of the Library Committee in 1891, the time of construction of the current building (MHC #146, 99 Main Street) was being voted on at town meeting. By 1921, the house had an attached auto house. Mr. Sheedy continued to live here into the 1930s, after which time, a relative, Mrs. Gray and her husband Eugene Gray, a Lawrence Academy teacher, occupied the house from at least the 1960s to the 1980s. It now serves as the alumni relations building for Lawrence Academy who acquired the building in the 1990s.

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; Butler's town history; Dr. Green, Vol ii, p. 278; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 97, 99, 100, 144, 148, 163, 226; 1930 Somes Map; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Houses" p. 148;

**** 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.



61 Powderhouse Road