

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 house at 169 Broadmeadow Road is a front gambrel form of 2 stories with two gabled dormers located on the front slope of the roof above two bay windows in the façade; a shed roof extends the rear roof slope below the level of the front eave
- * Windows are a distinctive part of the design and include segmental arched multiple fixed pane sash lighting the first story of the north elevation, above which are three six pane fixed sash arranged in ascending height as though to light a stairway within; these are alternated with spandrel panels and quarter round blind fans
- * Additional detail includes the wood shingle siding above the wood clapboards divided by a stepped stringcourse that descends toward the rear of the house
- * The building is unusually fanciful for Groton and is well-maintained

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.

In her book "Groton Houses" Virginia May describes this house on the south side of Broadmeadow Road near the western end as having been built in 1882 by Groton School superintendant Henry Whiting, Civil War veteran John Condon, carpenter Frank Peabody, H. Clark, Charles Blood and George May, all Groton residents. John Condon was installed as an officer of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1921 and was listed in the 1918 resident directory as a resident of Champney Street at the corner of Main Street. The house was originally a duplex for employees of Prescott Lawrence, former resident of 152 Broadmeadow Road. The 1930 map of Groton by Somes indicates this was the property of William P. Wharton, a later resident of 152 Broadmeadow Road (MHC #93). Mr. Wharton (1912-1976) was the son of William F. Wharton, a Harvard educated lawyer (classes of 1870, 1873), member of the state house of representatives, assistant secretary of state under President Harrison and part time resident of 108 Pleasant Street (The Elms, MHC #87) where the younger Wharton lived for a time. William P. Wharton attended the Groton School and Harvard University, founded the New England Forestry Foundation, served as president of the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, donated over 700 acres that became Groton's Wharton Plantation, served as Director of the Audubon Society, served on the board of selectman from 1921 - 1924, the planning board in 1947, town forest committee in 1923 and was for a time Groton's oldest resident. The house probably served as the residence of his employees.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHS Research; GPL Local History Collection, Wm. F. Wharton File; Sawyer, Helen McCarthy, People and Places of Groton; Barbara Murray, et. al. Groton at 350; 1918, 1929 Resident Directories; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 141, 149, 172; Groton Landmark/Turner's Public Spirit, 1/8/1921;

**** 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
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



169 Broadmeadow Road