

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 225-13 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 497

Town Groton3
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

North Toward Top



Address 109 Common Street
Historic Name George and Mary May House
Uses: Present Residential/agricultural
Original Residential/agricultural
Date of Construction 1848-1849
Source "Groton Houses", p. 109
Style/Form Greek Revival, Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Split granite
Wall/Trim Wood clapboards
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure Attached barn, 19th c.

Major Alterations (with dates)

Some sash replaced with 2/2 sash and modern casements

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.5

Setting Rural

Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/08

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 May House is a 2 1/2-story, front-gabled, 3x4-bay form with a rear ell of 1 1/2 stories that attaches the gable front barn to the house; an open shed roofed porch covers the first story of the façade; an open porch with pedimented gable covers the secondary entry in the rear ell
- * Subtle elements of the Greek Revival and Victorian Eclectic styles mark the exterior, including the gable returns, frieze board at the eaves and across the gable front facade, corner boards, the small wood shingle gable ornament in the peak and the jigsawed brackets supporting the front porch
- * Windows are mainly 2/2 double-hung sash in the second story and 6/6 in the first (with slim window hoods) except for the modern casements in the southeast corner of the south elevation
- * The side-hall entry is under the front porch and appears to have plain trim
- * The gable-front barn has wood clapboard exterior; a mow door and 6/6 sash are located above the off-center vehicle entry; the barn is relatively small compared to other agricultural properties in Groton

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 Butler map of 1847 depicts the parcel as vacant but by the time of the 1856 Walling map of Middlesex County, the site is occupied by the house of George May, reinforcing the construction date of 1848 on the plaque on the façade of the house. Also, Virginia May quotes Josiah K. Bennett's diary which states "Dec. 19, 1848 'Mr. G. May is digging his cellar on the half acre of ground which he bought of father the other day. '" The vital records for Groton state Mr. May married Frances Ann Shattuck in June, 1842. By 1875, the Mays were still living on this segment of Common Street although the 1889 atlas depicts the house but does not ascribe it an owner name. The 1930 owner was W. P. Warner and by c. 1970, the owner was named Filene according to "Groton Houses" which contains a historic photo of the house on p. 170.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Resident directories, 1918, 1929; 1930 Somes map of Groton; 1875, 1889 Middlesex County atlases; 1847 Butler map of Groton; 1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 109, 149, 169, 170

**** 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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Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community
Property Address

Groton
109 Common Street

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually eligible X

Eligible only in a historic district

Contributing to a potential historic district

Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of significance by: Sanford Johnson

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The George and Mary May House at 109 Common Street is a Victorian Eclectic style residence and barn which was built in 1848 judging by the diary of Josiah K. Bennett which states "Dec. 19, 1848, 'Mr. G. May is digging his cellar on the half acre of ground which he bought of father the other day'". The 1856 Walling map of Middlesex County depicts the house of George May, reinforcing the construction date of 1848 on the plaque on the façade of the house. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The intact Victorian trim on the house and porch as well as the barn make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

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Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



109 Common St