

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 116 12 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 574

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village) LA

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 48 Powderhouse Road

Historic Name Winthrop L. Sheedy Faculty Building

Uses: Present Faculty Housing

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1855

Source 1856 Walling map

Style/Form French Eclectic

Architect/Builder Elliot Cabot, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard, flushboard

Roof Slate shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Renovated c. 1930; remodeled into apartments, 1969

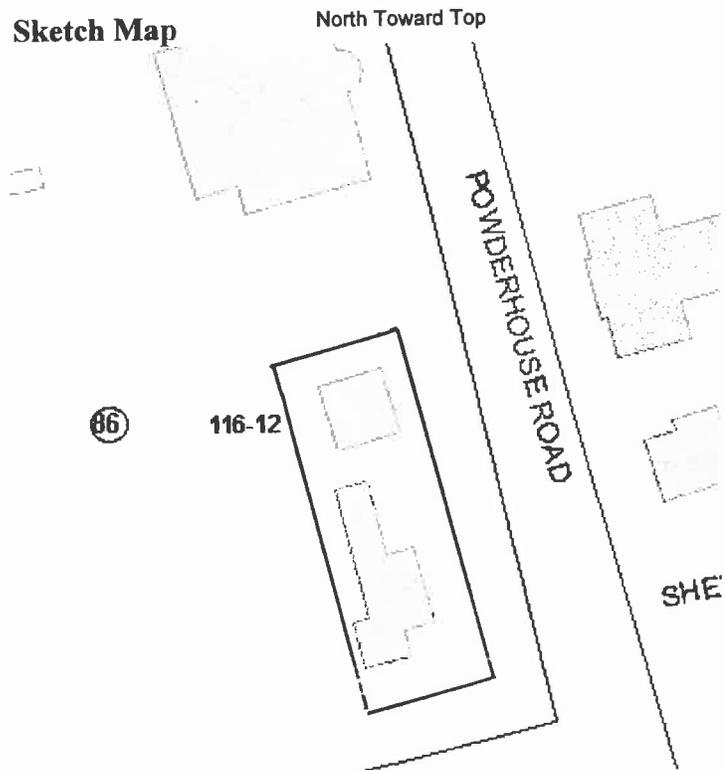
Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date

Acreage Part of LA campus

Setting School campus

Sketch Map



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 Sheedy Faculty Building at Lawrence Academy is a locally rare example of the French Eclectic style and has a 3x3-bay ridge-hipped main block of 2 stories that is expanded by a 2-story ell at the north side elevation; a shallow pavilion projects from the center of the façade and incorporates the open entry porch with its barrel roof sheathed in copper and supported by slim Doric columns
- * Details include the prominent hipped roof, 3 corbelled brick chimneys, symmetrical fenestration in the facade and flushboard siding on the second story separated by a beltcourse from wood clapboard siding on the first
- * Windows in the principal elevation are mainly 2/2 double-hung sash with a tripartite example over the center entry that has quarrel panes; the front of the ell has a combination of 2/2 sash and a tripartite window with 6/6 sash
- * The front door is a double leaf arrangement with wide molded trim and quarrel panes
- * The detached garage, now in use as teaching offices, is a 1-story, side-gabled form with a dual-pitched or gable-on-shed roof
- * Details include the gable ornaments, deep hoods over the 6/6 double-hung sash and board and batten siding
- * While the house is unusual in its form, the materials and scale are typical for Groton Center residences

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 Winthrop Lawrence Sheedy Faculty House was built for Reverend Crawford Nightingale c. 1855 and first appears on a historic map from 1856. Reverend Nightingale (1816-1892) was born in Rhode Island, attended Brown and Harvard Universities, preached at the First Congregational Church and Society (First Parish Church) in Groton from January, 1853 to September, 1866 but remained in Groton until 1875 before moving to Dorchester. His death came after being run over by a trolley car in Providence, RI, an accident that likely resulted from his advancing deafness. Dr. Green notes that the house, due to its site, was considered one of the town's finest. Reverend Nightingale wrote an article for a Providence periodical "Book Notes" shortly before his death mentioning not only a visit to this house in the early 1860s by Ralph Waldo Emerson but that the architect of the house was James Elliot Cabot, later Mr. Emerson's literary executor, biographer and fellow Saturday Club member. A subsequent owner was the Civil War veteran Col. Thomas Lawrence Motley by 1894 according to Dr. Green's history. Col. Motley was a resident of 44 Farmers Row (MHC 89) in 1875 but not the owner according to the Beers atlas of Middlesex County. He served as library trustee in the 1880s and was in the dry goods business in Boston according to the Boston resident directory from 1885 (See MHC #s 41, 149). Douglas Frank states in his history of Lawrence Academy that the school bought the house from Col. Motley in 1920 for \$7,000 (although Frank later states the house was bought in 1969 for \$70,000 from Winthrop Lawrence Sheedy, whose ownership is reflected on the 1942 Groton map by Stanley Scott, reproduced in Frank, p. 298.) Winthrop Lawrence Sheedy was a 1909 alumnus of the academy and later trustee and treasurer from 1947-1965. Mr. Sheedy renovated the building in the 1930s and it was later remodeled into three apartments and renamed the Winthrop L. Sheedy Faculty House. Winthrop was the son of Michael Sheedy, LA alumnus from 1872, Groton native, local businessman and resident of 61 Powderhouse Road (MHC 460).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

History of Lawrence Academy, 1792-1992, pp. 125, 230-231, 298, 321, 350, 382; Dr. Green, Vol I, chapter XVIII, p8, Vol iii, pp. 415-418; Vol iv, pp. 193-194, 282; "The Groton Public Library" A paper read before the Groton Historical Society in 1898, available at Google Books; Walling map of Middlesex County, 1856;

**** 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
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



48 Powderhouse Rd, Sheedy Faculty Building, Lawrence Academy



48 Powderhouse Rd, Sheedy Faculty Building outbuilding, Lawrence Academy