

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 101 26 USGS Quad W Area(s) Form Number 274

Town Groton3
Place (neighborhood or village) West Groton

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 55 West Main Street
Historic Name Former Tarbell School
Uses: Present Residential
Original District schoolhouse
Date of Construction 1872
Source Town Report

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic/No style

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Aluminum siding

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Re-sided with aluminum

Condition Fair

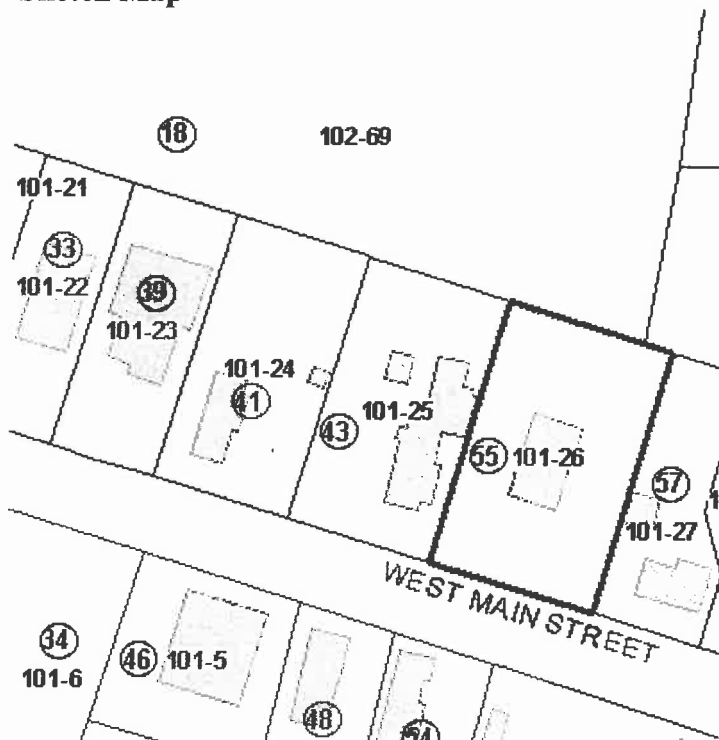
Moved no yes Date

Acreage .5

Setting Rural village

Sketch Map

North Toward Top



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 former Tarbell School at 55 West Main Street is a 2x5-bay, front-gabled form of 2 1/2 stories and little architectural detail beside the surviving gable returns
- * Windows are a combination of modern 1/1 double-hung sash and 6/6 sash, all without trim
- * The full-width shed-roofed enclosed porch covers the first story of the façade and the paired front entries
- * The building is set farther back from West Main Street than others on this segment of the street
- * Alterations to the building include the installation of aluminum siding and the removal of most architectural detail
- * It is in fair condition

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 former Tarbell School (named in honor of a prominent local family with Colonial Period roots), now in use as a private residence, was built in 1872 according to the town report from the following year. It replaced the #4 District School that was located at the southwest corner of Kemp Street and Pepperell Road and was demolished by the early 20th century. Samuel W. Rowe, builder and architect of Groton Town Hall in 1859 and designer of Schoolhouse #12 in 1869, was paid \$2.75 for making the deed and contract for the construction project. B. F. Hartwell, carpenter, slater and recent builder of the Butler High School in 1871 (predecessor to the existing Prescott School at 145 Main Street, MHC #147), was paid \$1800 for building the West Groton Schoolhouse a year later. Mr. Hartwell (born c. 1815) lived on Shirley Road in 1855 and by 1875, he also owned 197 Main Street which he probably rented out. Groton historian Virginia May states in "Groton Plantation" that schools in the villages of West Groton and Groton Center were bigger than the 11 other district schools (Chaplin at 75 Hollis Street and Butler, now demolished, in Groton Center had at least 2 classrooms instead of one with a primary school, grades 1-4, and intermediate and grammar school, grades 5-8) and had the "advantage of any advanced methods and equipment". In 1873, Etta Shattuck was the teacher at Tarbell School and was paid \$90; 1874 teachers were Lyman Jewett, Loella V. Shattuck and M. Lizzie Day. The number of teachers (representing both sexes) was two or three for the succeeding years. The school superintendent recommended in 1900 that the walls of Tarbell School be darkened in order to soften the light in the classrooms. The course of study in 1900 included language, mathematics, history, natural science, writing, singing, drawing and physical training. After the 1872 building was taken out of use in 1915 due to construction of the new brick Tarbell School at 73 Pepperell Road (MHC #246), it was sold to a private owner. The 1930 map of Groton depicts the paper mill employee John B. Downes and his wife Jennie as the owners. The school building was falsely reported as demolished in the MHC West Groton Area Form.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1856 Walling map of Middlesex County; 1875 Beers Atlas of Middlesex County; Town Reports; May, "Groton Plantation", p. 106; Town Reports, 1872-1916; 1930 Somes map of Groton; State census, 1855;

** *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.



55 West Main Street