

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 111-4
USGS Quad
Area(s)
Form Number 198

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)

Address 80 Champney Street
Historic Name Groton Grange #7 Patrons of Husbandry
Uses: Present Institutional
Original Institutional

Date of Construction c. 1890

Source Dr. Green, Vol. 2, p. 408;

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder H. M. Adams, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Aluminum storm windows added, mid 20th century

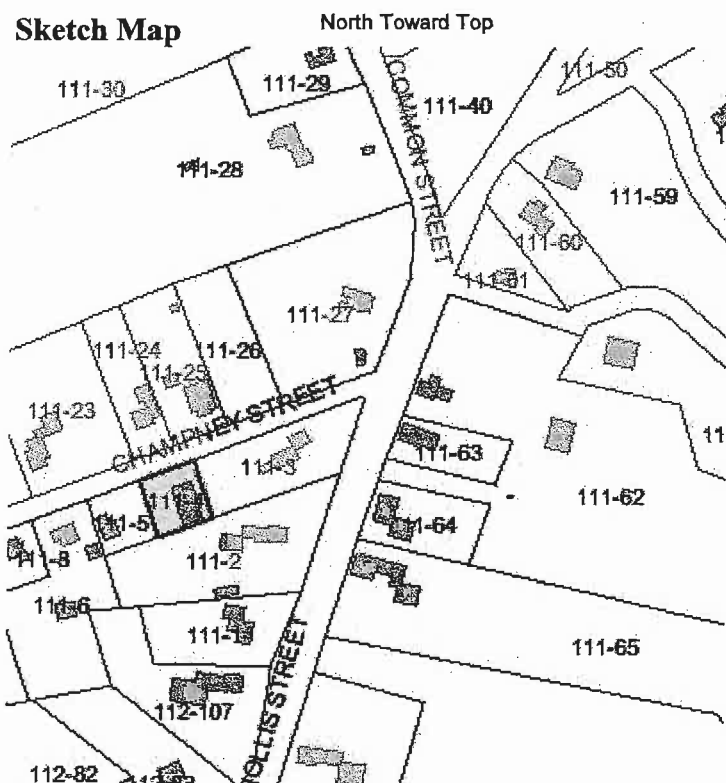
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .5

Setting Town center, residential street

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 5/06

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 Groton Grange Hall is a front-gabled, 2 1/2-story wood clapboard building of 7 bays' depth on the east elevation and 5 on the west; the façade is a symmetrical 3-bay design with two windows lighting the attic and a gabled entry porch over the center entry
- * Decorative elements include the molded cornice, corner boards, scrolled brackets at the corners of the eaves, pilasters and square posts with caps supporting the entry porch and its simple cornice and pediment, a plain balustrade lining the edge of the slightly elevated entry porch and a simple hood over the double leaf entry doors
- * Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash with flat trim
- * The building is set on a flat parcel in a residential neighborhood
- * The Grange Hall is less ornate than some other institutional buildings from the period but remains in good condition with its exterior features intact

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 Groton Grange #7 Patrons of Husbandry was in 1998 the oldest functioning chapter in the state of Massachusetts, having been founded on October 18, 1873 as the seventh in the state, just six years after the original founding of the institution in New York State. Additionally, it was the first major social institution to admit women on an equal basis with male members. Barbara Murray et al. note in "Groton at 350" that the grange was founded in response to increasing industrialization in the region and in the western part of Groton and in Ayer. Champney Street was accepted by the town as a public way on November 16, 1888, suggesting c. 1890 as the construction date for the building. Twenty three charter members, shoemaker and farmer Moses Palmer and Reuben Lewis among them, founded the organization at a meeting in the home of state senator Daniel Needham (208 Main Street, MHC #138) and first met in the upper floor of Legion Hall (now demolished). Additional meeting places were in homes of members, the Town Hall (173 Main Street, MHC #3) and Palmer's Block (30 Hollis Street). This arrangement continued until 1916 when the Grange acquired the building at 80 Champney Street, a former carriage and paint shop, in 1916. The architect employed for the remodeling was H. M. Adams and the building's use was listed as a dining hall in the Department of Public Safety Fire Safety Records. Subsequently, semi-monthly meetings took up issues of agricultural business, entertainment and athletic events, lectures, awarding of scholarships to high school students, contributing to the Red Cross, lobbying for farm legislation and generally "stimulating rural people" according to Helen McCarthy Sawyer. She also notes that Ralph (grandson of a former master and son of a former member) and Alice Smith were the only husband and wife to have served as masters, he in 1929-30 and she in 1943 and 1986. Mr. Smith worked for the Groton Electric Light Department for 46 years and was a member of the Rotary Club and the Masons (of Littleton) as well as the Grange. Prominent Grotonian Harlan Fitch was a long time member from 1934 until his death in 2005. He recalled that the Grange was very active from the period after the turn of the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Tercentenary Booklet, p. 70; Sawyer, "More People and Places of Groton", pp. 23-24; "Groton at 350", pp. 116-118; Groton Tax Records, 1830-1889; State Census, 1855, 1865; Green, Vol. 2, p. 408; Department of Public Safety. Division of Plans. Fire Safety Records;

**** 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

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

Town **Property Address**

Groton

Area(s) **Form No.**

80 Champney Street Historical Narrative

century until WWII, at which time, agricultural issues became less important to the growing suburban population.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.

80 Champney Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Property Address
80 Champney Street

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 Victorian Eclectic Style Groton Grange at 80 Champney Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. It was in 1998 the oldest functioning grange chapter in the state of Massachusetts, having been founded on October 18, 1873 as the seventh in the state, just six years after the original founding of the institution in New York State. Additionally, it was the first major social institution to admit women on an equal basis with male members. Barbara Murray et al. note in "Groton at 350" that the grange was founded in response to increasing industrialization in the region and in the western part of Groton and in Ayer. The building's associations with historic agricultural and civic activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The simple design and historic wood clapboard exterior are typical of Victorian Eclectic style civic construction in Groton, making the property eligible under Criterion C. The hall retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.