

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 111 3 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 100

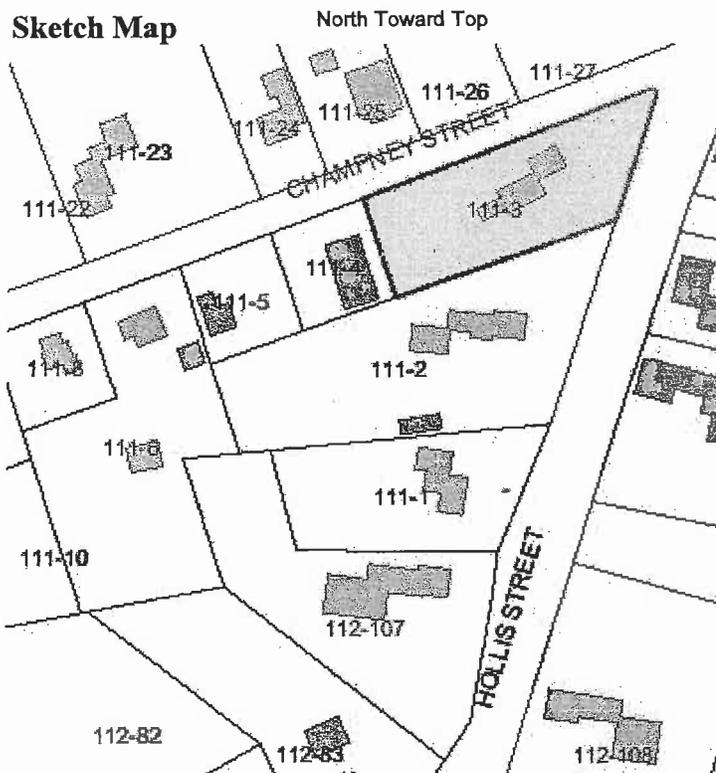
Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center

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



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

Address 88 Champney Street
Historic Name Bowers, Samuel Jr. Tavern
Uses: Present Residential-multi unit
Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1730

Source Tercentenary Booklet, p. 84

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .75

Setting Town center

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 Bowers Tavern is a Colonial style, 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form with 1 1/2-story ells extending out from both side elevations
- * Decorative features are the symmetrical fenestration in the façade of the main block, classical entry surround including the entablatures, sidelights and pilasters, molded cornice, corner boards and the double arched brick inlay in the center brick chimney
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with aluminum storm windows
- * The western ell has a central entrance flanked by a single window on each side
- * The eastern ell is one bay deep and, like the western ell, has a central entrance flanked by a window on each side; sidelights flank the center entry as well; the south elevation is covered by a full width open porch with a shed roof; the foundation is cobblestone
- * The house is in good condition and the central block retains features and possibly materials from its original construction
- * Alterations include the addition of some modern wood clapboards, the two ells, and replacement of at least one window in the east elevation of the main block with a smaller 6/6 sash

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 Bowers Tavern, Groton's first, was built c. 1730 and kept by Samuel Bowers, Jr. (1711-1768). Mr. Bowers was married to Deborah Farnsworth in 1734/5 and had six children. He also had care of French neutrals or Acadians in 1756 based on the existence of an account submitted by Groton selectmen to the General Court for their support that includes Mr. Bowers' name. The 1832 Butler map depicts Francis Champney as the occupant although tax records show he owned no property. This may be the same Francis Champney who, in 1792, was a founding subscriber of the Groton Academy, later called The Lawrence Academy. Tax records from 1847 show that Abigail Champney was heir to a farm valued at \$1,800 (an average value for a farm of this size) which may be 88 Champney Street. By 1856, it was occupied by S. Champney according to the Walling map. This may be Samuel Champney who tax records from 1830 show to own property here but also to be living in New York. A subsequent owner, according to GHS research, was Charles Murphy who subdivided the former Champney land to the west and laid out Champney Street which was accepted by the town in 1888. The resident directory from 1888 lists Mr. Murphy as a farmer on Hollis Street. The 1889 Walker atlas, which depicts J. Reade as the owner, probably refers to John Read who is listed in the 1888 directory as a stone mason living on Hollis Street. A photo from 1892 in "Groton Houses" shows the core of the house in its current configuration (minus the 20th century side additions) with 9/6 double-hung sash, and the double arch in the center brick chimney. The 1930 map of Groton depicts Mrs. George L. Moison (Mabel) as the occupant. Mr. Moison was a paper hanger and painter according to the resident directory from 1918.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Whipple, p. 120, 121; Tercentenary Booklet, pp. 65, 84; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1856 Walling map; "Groton Houses", p. 132; Groton Tax Records, 1830-1889; State Census, 1855, 1865; Green, Vol. 2, p. 408; 1930 Tercentenary map of Groton; 1918, 1929 resident directories; Account submitted by Selectmen of Groton to the General Court for Support of French Neutrals, January 1, 1757;

**** 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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
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Boston, Massachusetts 02125

88 Champney Street

Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
88 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 Colonial Style Bowers Tavern at 88 Champney Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Bowers Tavern, Groton's first, was built c. 1730 and kept by Samuel Bowers, Jr. (1711-1768). Mr. Bowers was married to Deborah Farnsworth in 1734/5 and had six children. He also had care of French neutrals or Acadians in 1756 based on the existence of an account submitted by Groton selectmen to the General Court for their support that includes Mr. Bowers' name. The building's associations with historic economic and social activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The simple design with symmetrical façade fenestration and center entry with classical trim and the historic wood clapboard exterior are typical of Colonial style residential construction in Groton, making the property eligible under Criterion C. The house is in use as a multiple unit residence and retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.