

FORM B - Building

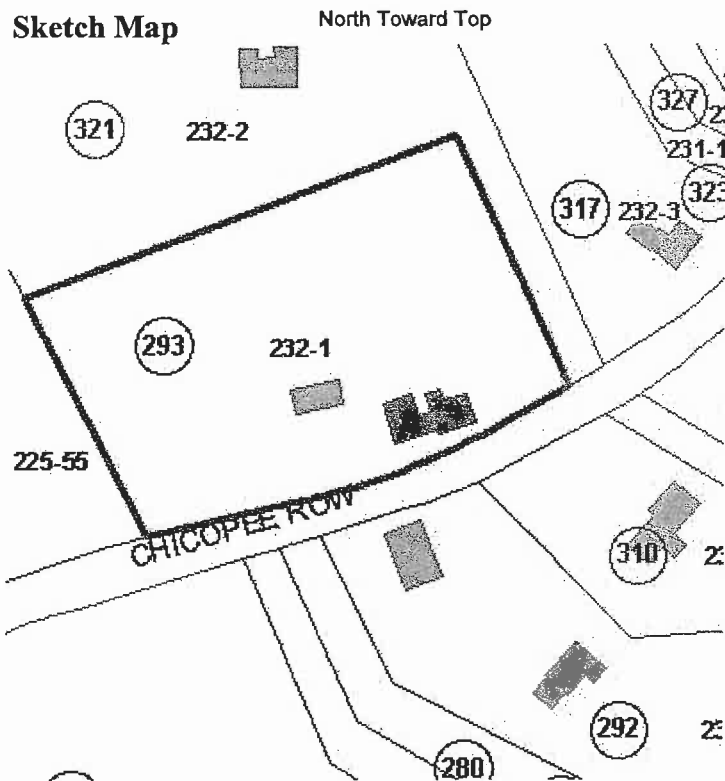
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" 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

Map and Lot # 232-1, 232-23
USGS Quad
Area(s)
Form Number 174, 203

Town Groton

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 293 Chicopee Row

Historic Name Torrey, Noah House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential-agricultural

Date of Construction c. 1800

Source May, pp. 8-9

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

19th c. barn-Ass.# 232-23; mid 20th c. det. Garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage Approximately 2

Setting Rural

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 Federal style house at 293 Chicopee Row is a side-gabled, 5x3-bay, 2 1/2-story form with a 1 1/2-story ell projecting from the west elevation; Decorative features consist of the symmetrical fenestration, classical surround at the center entry, gable returns, molded cornice, corner boards and beaded window trim
- * Windows are 12/12 double-hung sash in the main block with 3/3, 12/12 and a fixed multiple pane window in the principal elevation of the ell; A large stout chimney occupies the center of the roof ridge of the main block while a second narrower and taller chimney rises from the ridge of the ell; A picket fence separates the house from the road
- * The detached 19th century barn is located across the road and is a front-gabled form with the main vehicle entry facing Chicopee Row; Windows in the façade consist of a fixed 6-pane sash on either side of the main rolling door, a double hung 6/6 sash in the gable peak and a transom over the entry; four fixed 12-pane sash light the west wall; secondary entry is through two pedestrian doors in the façade, one of which is located within the large rolling door; Decorative elements include the patterned clapboard siding applied diagonally in a band across the façade, peaked hoods over the easterly pedestrian door and gable window, wood shingles in the gable peak that have alternating bands of sawtooth and stagger butt patterned shingles; Remaining cladding is clapboards on the side walls and vertical flushboard on the façade; Dimensions are estimated to be around 40'x60'; Foundation material is granite
- * The house and barn are among the more well-preserved in the town and retain integrity of materials and design

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 house at 293 Chicopee Row appears on the 1832 and 1847 Butler maps as the property of Noah Torrey. Butler's 1828 field notes describe a house with the same form as the current building and he notes that it was considered old, possibly having been built c. 1800 based on the design. Mr. Torrey was taxed in 1830 and 1847 for ownership of an average sized farm. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 list Mr. Torrey as a farmer with 62 acres, a smaller than average holding. Maps from 1856 and 1875 depict a relative named F. Torrey as the occupant. State census records from 1855 list Mr. Torrey (spelled Terry) as a 40-year-old farmer with a wife named Sarah and 3 children. C. N. Torrey lived here by 1889 and appears in tax records as Charles N. Torrey, owner of a farm of average value on 65 acres, a similar size to the current parcel. The resident directory from 1888 lists Charles Torrey as a farmer on Chicopee Row. A photo from 1897 in "Groton Houses" indicates the farm was occupied by Virginia May's relative, the dairyman Nesbit L. Woods from 1896-1901 but was owned by his uncle Dr. F. Earland Gilson and called Woodale Dairy Farm. By 1939, the property was used for raising crops and pastureland according to the WPA maps of that year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Previous research; 1939 WPA map; Groton Tax Records, 1830-1889; State Census, 1855, 1865; May's "Groton Houses", pp. 8-9; Non-population Census Schedules;

**** 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, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

293 Chicopee Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Property Address
293 Chicopee Row

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 Federal Style Torrey House and barn at 293 Chicopee Row are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house at 293 Chicopee Row appears on the 1832 and 1847 Butler maps as the property of Noah Torrey. Butler's 1828 field notes describe a house with the same form as the current building and he notes that it was considered old, possibly having been built c. 1800 based on the design. Mr. Torrey was taxed in 1830 and 1847 for ownership of an average sized farm and maps from 1856 and 1875 depict a relative named F. Torrey as the occupant. The buildings' associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house with its symmetrical façade fenestration and center entry with classical trim are typical of Federal style residential construction in Groton; the Victorian period barn across the road appears to retain historic exterior materials and patterned cladding, making the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.