

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 230 41 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 175

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 641 Chicopee Row
Historic Name Bennett, J.-Cunningham, Effie House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential-agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1800
Source Butler's field notes, 1828-29

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage, mid 20th c.

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rehabilitated, c. 1940

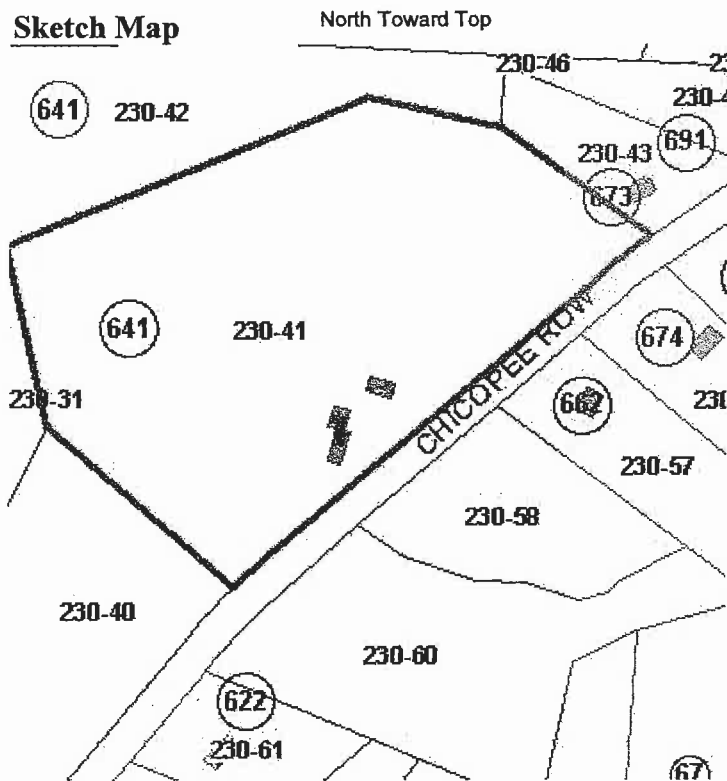
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 10

Setting Rural

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

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 house at 641 Chicopee Row is a 1 1/2-story, side-gabled Cape Cod house of six by three bays with a 1-story ell attached to the north side elevation
- * Little in the way of ornament exists on the Federal Period house beside corner boards; a classical surround, simple hood and sidelights articulate the off-center entry
- * Windows are 6/9 double-hung sash in the façade and first story of the side elevations; 6/6 sash exist in the gable peak; fixed 6-pane sash light the raised cellar wall on the south elevation and a fixed 6-pane sash lights the second story above the main entry
- * Two brick chimneys rise from the rear slope of the roof; additional brick is visible in the foundation which is unusual in Groton
- * A detached garage, perhaps built in the mid 20th century, occupied the northwest corner of the yard
- * The house is in good condition and represents a Federal Period building type that is somewhat smaller and simpler than the higher style examples found in the town center and elsewhere

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 1832 and 1847 Butler maps of Groton indicate this is the house of James Bennett who was taxed in 1830 and 1847 for ownership of property valued at \$600-\$650, much less than the average. Butler's field notes from 1828-29 depict a two-story house with three windows across the front which corresponds to the south gable end elevation of the house. By 1856, the property was occupied by M. A. Bennett and in 1875 by Richmond Hartwell. The 1875 tax records show Mr. Hartwell had 4 horses, 2 cows, a house and barn on 62 acres plus and additional lot of 28 acres. The 1889 Walker atlas depicts Goodwin as the owner, although this name does not appear in tax records, suggesting Mr. Goodwin was a tenant. In 1931, Mrs. Effie Cunningham (1881-1945) bought 12 acres and restored the house "single-handedly" over the course of 7 years and performed her own carpentry according to Helen Sawyer in "More People and Places of Groton". She functioned as an artist, dressmaker and upholsterer who was widowed with 5 children and served the town as tax collector from 1924-1935 according to town reports and to Mrs. Sawyer. Mrs. Cunningham also lived for a time on Main Street near the Congregational Church but later moved to New Hampshire where she died. By 1939, the land was in pasture and timber according to WPA maps from 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; Sawyer, pp. Town Report, 1926; Groton Tax Records, 1830-1889; State Census, 1855, 1865; Sawyer, "More People and Places of Groton", p. 12;

**** 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
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Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.

641 Chicopee Row

