

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 108 11 USGS Quad Area(s) X Form Number 82, 155, 917

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 76 Farmers Row  
Historic Name Sears, Clara Endicott House  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction 1894

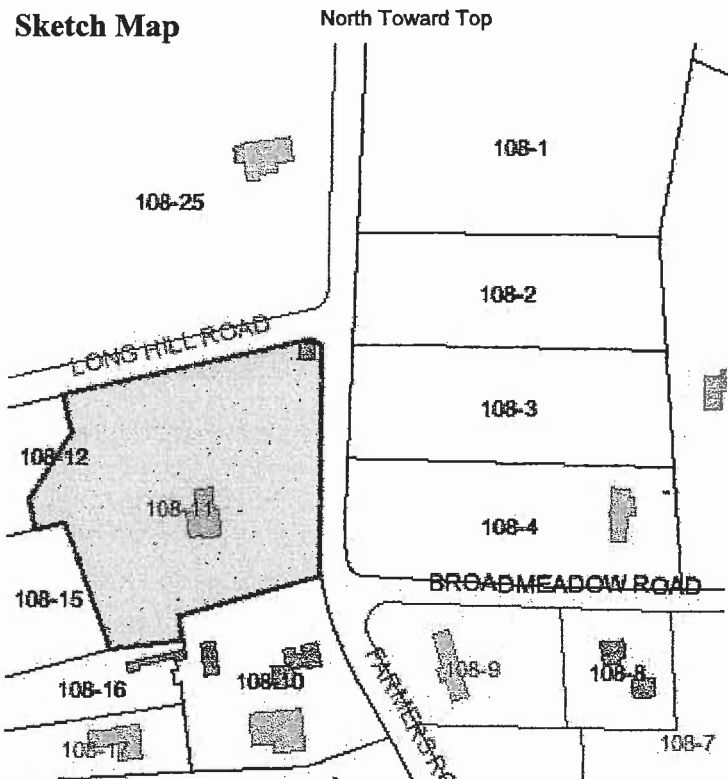
Source 1889 atlas; research of Faith Smith  
Style/Form Classical Revival  
Architect/Builder Charles Eliot, Lan. Arch.

Exterior Material:  
Foundation Unknown  
Wall/Trim Wood clapboard  
Roof Asphalt shingle  
Outbuildings/secondary structure  
Detached office/former district school, stone wall

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent  
Moved no  yes  Date  
Acreage 4.447  
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 Classical Revival style mansion at 76 Farmers Row consists of a 5x3-bay, deck-hipped, 2-story main block expanded at the north side by a second 5x3-bay, deck-hipped form of 2 stories whose front elevation is set back from the principal façade
- \* Secondary masses include the 1/2-round bay at the southwest corner and the 1/2-round portico at the center entry; four brick chimneys are set in from the corners of the main block
- \* Details include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals at the corners and flanking the central bay, entablature with deep cornice trimmed with dentils and modillions at the eaves
- \* Windows are mainly 15/15 double-hung sash with slim but projecting hoods; other window types are the 12/12 sash in the secondary block, 18/18 double-hung sash in the 1/2-round bay, a Palladian window lighting the first story of the south elevation and a larger Palladian window flanked by 4/4 double-hung sash over the principal entry
- \* The center entry has a fanlight, 1/2-length sidelights and is covered by a 1/2-round, flat-roofed portico with entablature articulated with dentils, modillions and a balustrade above, all supported by 2 Corinthian columns
- \* The brick outbuilding is a former 2x2-bay district schoolhouse built c. 1830 altered with a second story for use as an office
- \* The perimeter of the yard is marked by a stone fence of random ashlar in granite; stone piers with wrought iron lamps mark the entrance to the unusually large and ornate residence; the setting is a corner lot with large open fields with southwest views from the road to the woods lining the Nashua River; design and materials appear to be largely unaltered

### 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 site of 76 Farmers Row was in 1691 the site of a garrison house used to defend against raids by Native Americans. Caleb Butler, in his history of Groton, mentions Farmers Row, indicating that the road had become known by that name in 1847. His field notes for the 1832 map mention the No. 3 brick schoolhouse in the northeast corner of the property. Miss Clara Endicott Sears (1863-1960) bought the land and house now at 90 Farmers Row (MHC #83), moved the house approximately 1/4 mile to the south (Daniel C. Lovell was listed in the 1888 resident directory as a building mover and may have been involved in this project) and soon thereafter began construction on her mansion at 76 Farmers Row with help prior to construction from Charles Eliot of the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape architecture firm who sited her building. The construction date is based on job files in the Olmsted landscape architecture firm's archives retrieved by Faith Smith. Miss Sears was a wealthy Bostonian (resident with her parents at 132 Beacon Street from at least 1865-1925 and later at the Vendome Hotel where she died), descendant of Governors John Winthrop and John Endicott as well as six other governors, cousin of her neighbor to the north, James Lawrence, and author of novels who later founded the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, preserved Shaker artifacts and buildings as well as Hudson River School art. She sold the house in 1910 in order to move to Harvard, Mass. Subsequent owners were the DuMaine family from 1927-1946. Frederick C. Dumaine (1866-1951) was an industrialist, former office boy and later the head of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company of Manchester, NH, said by Ms. Sawyer to be the largest textile factory in the world. He donated the 54-acre Groton Place, located at the foot of Long Hill Road, to the town. Zella and Nellie Barrett bought the house in 1946 and remained here until the 1970s. Mr. Barrett was an oil man and farmer who, during WWII and prior to moving to Groton, worked in the Office of Price Administration in Washington DC. The Barretts sold antiques and during First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's White House remodeling project, sold her a bed.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous research by GHS; Butler, p. 247; Sawyer, "People and Places of Groton", p. 89; "More People and Places of Groton", p. 85, 125; Smith, Faith. "Farmers Row in Groton, Massachusetts: The Olmsted Firm's Influence on a Neighborhood from 1884-1894". Unpublished MS, 1999; Boston Resident Directories; Clara Endicott Sears. Obituary in the New York Times, March 26, 1960; Groton Landmark, article, September, 17, 1910;

**\*\* 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**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

76 Farmers Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton  
Property Address  
76 Farmers Row

Area(s)

X

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  X

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 Classical Revival Style Sear House at 76 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The site was in 1691 the site of a garrison house used to defend against raids by Native Americans. Miss Clara Endicott Sears began construction on her mansion at 76 Farmers Row in 1893 with help prior to construction from Charles Eliot of the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape architecture firm who sited her building. The construction date is based on job files in the Olmsted landscape architecture firm's archives retrieved by Faith Smith. Miss Sears (resident with her parents at 132 Beacon Street from at least 1865-1925 and later at the Vendome Hotel where she died) was a wealthy Bostonian, author, philanthropist, founder of Fruitlands Museum in Harvard and descendant of Governors John Winthrop and John Endicott. The building's associations with the Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architecture Firm establish its significance under Criterion A. The design and setting of the house with its Classical Revival style main block combined with dramatic setting above the Nashua River appears in several locations on Farmers Row and make the property one of several in the area that is NR eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.