



## 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 90 Farmers Row is a Federal style, 5x2-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story form with a perpendicular 2-story rear ell enlarged by a 1 1/2-story hipped addition to the south elevation; decorative elements include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade of the main block, molded cornice and eave trim, paneled corner pilasters and closed gable
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim; the center entry is recessed and articulated with a classical surround, sidelights and shouldered architrave; interior brick chimneys mark both ends of the roof ridge
- \* A stone fence of random ashlar in granite with stone piers at the driveway entrance line the perimeter of the yard; this is a continuation of the fence that also line the yard at 76 Farmers Row left from the time they shared an owner
- \* The detached 19th century barn is a front-gabled form with the main vehicle door, lit from above by a transom, facing the road and a perpendicular 2-story addition at the south wall; distinctive 18-pane fixed sash light the façade on either side of the vehicle door; paired examples light the front gable peak; additional examples light the north side elevation in 6 openings, the vehicle door, the doors and side walls of the addition; a ventilator occupies the roof ridge of the addition
- \* The setting is amid large open fields with southerly views from the road to the woods lining the Nashua River; design and materials appear to be largely unaltered; this is one of several ornate estate properties on Farmers Row and could benefit from an interior inspection of the rear ell for First Period characteristics.

### 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 rear ell of 90 Farmers Row may have been built as early as 1720 according to previous research by the GHS. The main block of the house appears to have been built around 1780, was occupied by Walter Dickson in 1828-29 according to Butler's field notes and was painted yellow. By 1832, it was occupied by Thomas R. Wright as shown on the map of that year. A subsequent owner was B. Shattuck in 1847. Luther Rand's name appears on the property on the 1856 map and 1855 census records indicate he was a 59 year old farmer married to Electe with two sons and a laborer who boarded at the house. E. Cary is shown as the occupant on the 1875 atlas; 1875 tax records list Edward Cary as the owner of 2 horses, 8 cows, the house with 2 barns on 50 acres, all valued at an average amount for the town. The 1888 resident directory lists two members of the Cary family as farmers on Farmers Row. Butler refers to Farmers Row in his 1847 town history, indicating the name had been applied by that time. By 1894, the property belonged to Miss Clara Endicott Sears of Boston who would soon begin construction on her mansion at 76 Farmers Row (MHC 155). Miss Sears (b. 1863) was a wealthy Bostonian and author of novels who later founded the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, preserved of Shaker artifacts and buildings as well as Hudson River School art. Miss Sears probably moved the house from the site of her own house at 76 Farmers Row, located a short distance to the north. In 1939, the property was in use as a farm with land planted largely in hay.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

see butler, 247; Previous research; 1832, 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888 resident directory; 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.
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**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

90 Farmers Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton  
Property Address  
90 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 Federal Style Wright House at 90 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The rear ell of 90 Farmers Row may have been built as early as 1720 according to previous research by the GHC. The main block of the house appears to have been built around 1780, was occupied by Walter Dickson in 1828-29 according to Butler's field notes and was painted yellow. By 1832, it was occupied by Thomas R. Wright as shown on the map of that year. A subsequent owner was B. Shattuck in 1847. The building's associations with historic agricultural activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house with its Federal style main block combined with a potential First Period rear ell make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.