

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 107 17 USGS Quad Area(s) X Form Number 84, 208

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

Photograph

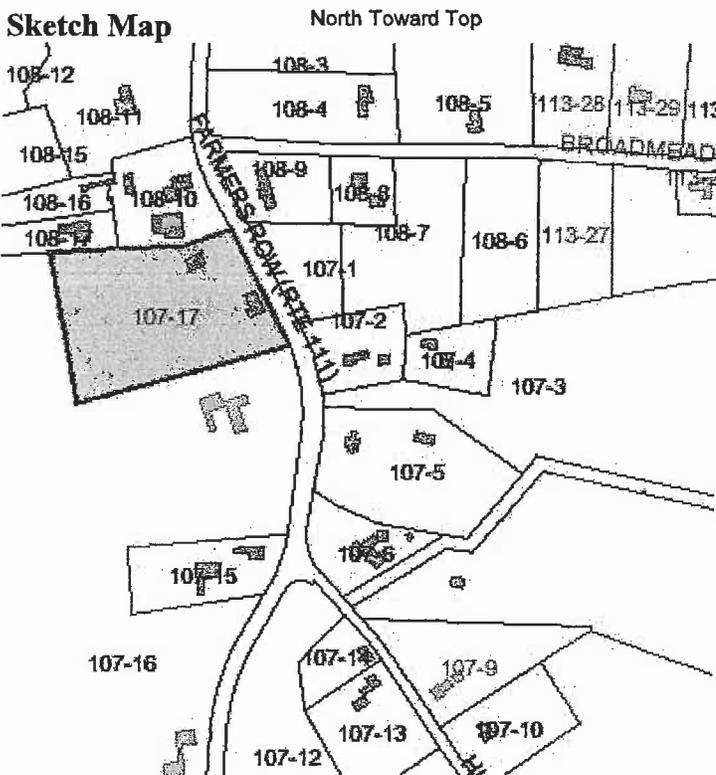
(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Address 112 Farmers Row
Historic Name Dickson House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential-agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1800

Roll Negative(s)

Source Butler map of 1832
Style/Form Federal

Sketch Map



Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Stone
Wall/Trim Wood clapboard
Roof Rubber shingles
Outbuildings/secondary structure
Detached barn

Major Alterations (with dates)
Renovated, 2002

Condition Excellent
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 5.69

Setting Rural

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 Dickson House is a 7x3-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story form with a 2-story rear addition at the southwest corner; The façade is arranged in five symmetrical bays in the south part of the façade and two additional bays that may have been added to the north wall subsequent to original construction; a vertical trim board separates the two sections
- * Decorative elements of the Federal style design include the molded cornice, corner boards, beaded window trim and gable returns; the off-center entry has an enclosed gable roofed porch trimmed with corner pilasters, entablature and pilasters flanking the door; brick chimneys rise from the front and rear slopes of the roof near the north and south ends
- * A post and rail fence separates the house from the road
- * The detached 19th century barn has a cross gable roof with square ventilator at the center, corner boards and molded eave trim; three garage modern doors, including one in a projecting gabled pavilion, give access to the interior from the street elevation; windows in the roof gables are double-hung sash and, in the upper level of the façade, flank a mow door; windows have stout hoods supported by brackets; door, window and eave trim are plain
- * The Dickson House occupies and adjoins large open fields with views of Mount Wachusett to the west; the design and setting are of high quality but comparable to many other properties on Farmers Row; another house with a 7-bay façade exists at 46 Hollis Street

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 first known owner of 112 Farmers Row was the widow Ann Dickson whose name appears on the 1832 map by Caleb Butler. His field notes from 1828-29 indicate the house was yellow and had only five windows across the front, the northern two bays having been added subsequently. Tax records from 1830 show Anna Dickson as the owner of \$1,700 in real property, an average amount for Groton. By 1847, the occupant was Charles Dickson who was taxed in that year for ownership of \$2,800 in real property, suggesting some improvements to the farm, possibly construction of the barn or the two northern bays of the facade. Mr. Dickson was described by Richardson as a teamster who drove hay to Boston and returned with merchandise for Groton storekeepers. This is supported by information in Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 which point out that he had 4 horses, an above-average number for a farmer in Groton; Butler refers to Farmers Row in his 1847 town history, indicating the name had been applied by that time. The Walling map of 1856 depicts an occupant named Andrews who may be the person listed in the 1855 census as Theodore Andruss although it is unclear. By 1875, the house was owned by Courtland S. Hill, owner of 12 cows, 3 horses and 70 acres according to tax records. The 1889 atlas indicates William P. Lawrence was the owner and who tax records say had a similar amount of livestock and identical acreage to the previous owner. In 1939, the property was in use as a farm with land planted in hay, orchards and pasture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler maps, 1832, 1847 and field notes; Beers Atlas, 1875; Walker atlas, 1889; 1939 WPA map; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888 resident directory; 1855, 1865 state census; Richardson, "The Community", pp. 8, 11; 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

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)

Form No.

112 Farmers Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

112 Farmers Row

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

X

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 Dickson House at 112 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The first known owner was the widow Ann Dickson whose name appears on the 1832 map by Caleb Butler. His field notes from 1828-29 indicate the house was yellow and had only five windows across the front, the northern two bays having been added subsequently. Tax records from 1830 show Anna Dickson as the owner of \$1,700 in real property, an average amount for Groton. By 1847, the occupant was Charles Dickson who was taxed in that year for ownership of \$2,800 in real property, suggesting some improvements to the farm, possibly construction of the barn. Mr. Dickson was described by Richardson as a teamster who drove hay to Boston and returned with merchandise for Groton storekeepers. The building's associations with historic agricultural and commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house with its locally unusual Federal style seven-bay façade make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.