

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 107 2
USGS Quad
Area(s) X
Form Number 194

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Farmers Row

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 123 Farmers Row
Historic Name Deacon David Fosdick House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential, agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1840

Source 1832, 1847 Butler maps

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

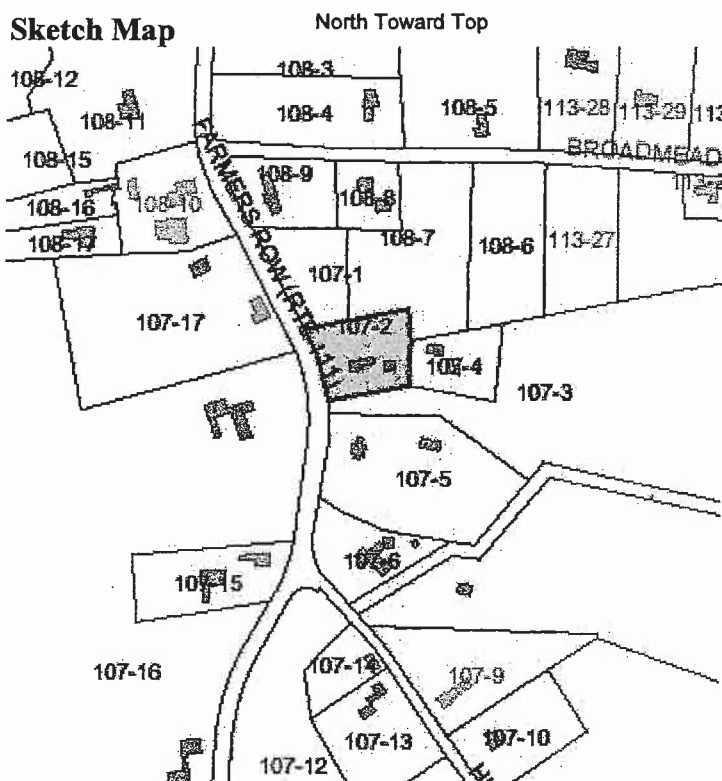
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acres 1.45 acres

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 Greek Revival style, three by three bay, front-gabled form rises two and one-half stories
- * A hipped porch covers the first story of the façade; a rear ell of one story expands the plan at the rear
- * Decorative elements include the Doric columns supporting the porch, paneled corner pilasters, closed gable and molded eave trim
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with shutters and flat hoods; paired sash in the gable peak are fixed 9-pane units; a three-sided bay window on the south side may be a 20th century addition
- * The side-hall entry is flanked by sidelights with paneled, tripartite lintel above
- * Stout brick chimneys with corbels occupy the front and rear of the roof ridge
- * The house is set on terraced ground that slopes down to a granite slab retaining wall at the edge of the road
- * The detached garage in the rear appears to have been built in the mid 20th century
- * The house is in excellent condition and retains historic exterior fabric and architectural details

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 owner of 123 Farmers Row was Judge Prescott according to Dr. Green. David Fosdick, a deacon in the newly formed Groton Baptist Church lived here by 1847. A group of 15-24 (sources conflict) Baptists, including deacons David Fosdick and Thomas Hutchins, formed a religious society in Groton in 1831 and began construction of the church in 1841 (264 Main Street, MHC #154). Non-population Census Schedules indicate he was a farmer with 46 acres, a smaller than average farm. Deacon Fosdick remained here with his family until at least 1875 according to atlases and tax records which also indicate he had \$3,500 in stocks and two farms in addition to this one. Census information from 1855 and 1865 show he was a farmer with 4 children and no wife at the time of the census. Deacon Fosdick's son David may also have been a clergyman and is listed as the owner in the 1889 tax records, although the house is noted as the D. Fosdick Estate on the 1889 atlas. According to Mr. Fosdick's obituary from the Andover Theological Seminary news, reprinted in Green's Historical Series, he was born in Charlestown in 1813, graduated at Amherst College in 1831, taught school in Groton c. 1840 and ministered the Unitarian congregation from 1847-1892 in South Groton (later the town of Ayer). WPA maps from 1939 depict a semi-agricultural property with other crops and orchards.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1847 Butler map; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1939 WPA map; 1889 Bird's eye view Green, Vol. 4, pp. 285, 300; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888 resident directory; 1855, 1865 state census; 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.

123 Farmers Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

123 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 Greek Revival Style Fosdick House at 123 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The first owner of 123 Farmers Row was Judge Prescott according to Dr. Green. David Fosdick, a deacon in the newly formed Groton Baptist Church lived here by 1847. A group of 15-24 (sources conflict) Baptists, including deacons David Fosdick and Thomas Hutchins, formed a religious society in Groton in 1831 and began construction of the church in 1841(264 Main Street, MHC #154). Deacon Fosdick remained here with his family until at least 1875 according to atlases and tax records which also indicate he had \$3,500 in stocks and two farms in addition to this one. Census information from 1855 and 1865 show he was a farmer with 4 children and no wife at the time of the census. The building's associations with historic agricultural and religious activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's gable front façade, side hall plan and dramatic elevated setting make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.