

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 219 2 USGS Quad Area(s) X Form Number 40

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 287 Farmers Row  
Historic Name Bancroft-Graves House  
Uses: Present Residential-Groton School  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction c. 1815

Source F. M. Boutwell, p. 15

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboards

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Dooryard fence, rebuilt, 2005

Major Alterations (with dates)

Large barn added 1898; barn demolished, 2005

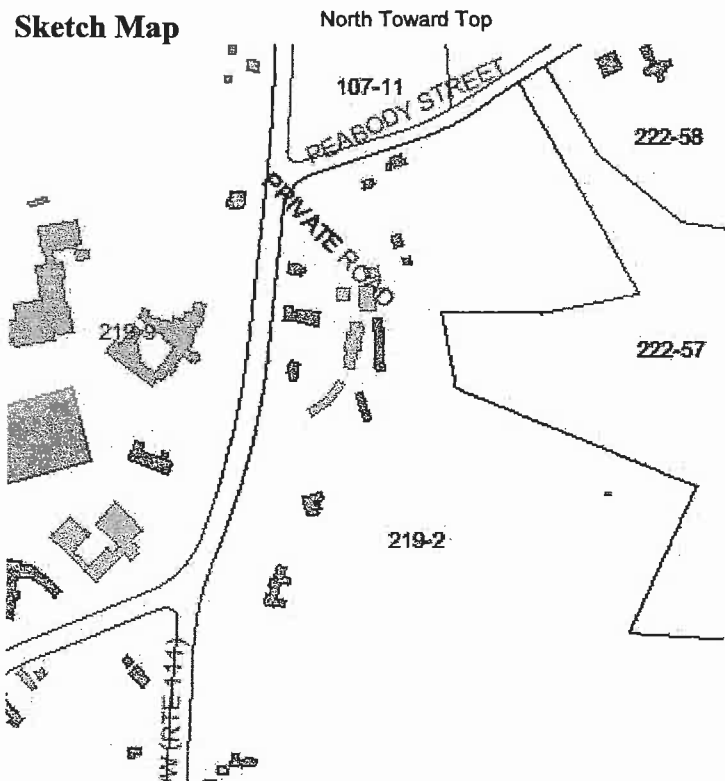
Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 30

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 Federal style Bancroft-Jackson House is a 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form
- \* Decorative features include the molded cornice, gable returns, corner boards and the symmetrical fenestration in the main block; one brick chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim
- \* The center entry has a classical surround with transom, pilasters and entablature
- \* A wood fence composed of slim turned balusters of varying height along the road and flat rails on the sides encloses the front door yard
- \* The house is well-maintained and is typical of the high style estate-scale properties common on Farmers Row; The Bancroft Jackson House is located across Farmers Row from the Groton School campus, is part of school property and provides housing for employees of the school; the back yard is occupied by detached barns and sheds in use as maintenance facilities for the school

### 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 Butler map of 1832 indicates this was the residence of William Bancroft. Francis Marion Boutwell, recording recollections of Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth in 1883, states the house was built by Lieutenant William A. Bancroft in 1815. This may be the William Bancroft born in 1756 and a seven year veteran of the Revolutionary War. Tax records from 1830 and 1847 list Mr. Bancroft as the owner of real property valued at \$1,300-\$1,800. From 1847 - 1856, John J. Graves is depicted as the owner. Mr. Graves, a butcher and trader, later lived at 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). He is described in Richardson as a country trader of jovial character but moved to the center in 1869 and died there in 1871, aged 59. Non-population Census Schedules from 1860 indicate he had 260 acres, a house(s) worth \$9,000 and \$6,000 in slaughtered animals. Edmund Blood occupied the building in 1875 according to the Beers atlas from that year and to tax records which show he had 2 horses, 9 cows, a house and barn on 100 acres which are typical for Groton farmers. Richardson notes that the barn burned on May 30, 1887. By 1884, the house was in use as the Groton School Foreman's residence according to Boutwell. The 1918 resident directory suggests the chauffeur David Gibson, who lived opposite the Groton School, may have occupied this house. Tax records from 1889 show that the "Groton Episcopal School" owned the former Graves House and land. Virginia May indicates the house was used as laundry facility by the school. It was later owned by Herbert Folkins, then Nathan Anderson in 1960s.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler, 247, 296; 1875 Beers Atlas; Boutwell, "People and Their Homes in Groton, Massachusetts in Olden Times", p. 15; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888, 1918 resident directory; 1855, 1865 state census; May, "Groton Houses", p. 59; Richardson, "The Community", pp. 8, 12, 21; 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**

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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

287 Farmers Row



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Massachusetts Archives Building

Property Address

220 Morrissey Boulevard

287 Farmers Row

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 Bancroft-Graves House at 287 Farmers Row is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Butler map of 1832 indicates this was the residence of William Bancroft. Francis Marion Boutwell, recording recollections of Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth in 1883, states the house was built by Lieutenant William A. Bancroft in 1815. This may be the William Bancroft born in 1756 and a seven year veteran of the Revolutionary War. Tax records from 1830 and 1847 list Mr. Bancroft as the owner of real property valued at \$1,300-\$1,800. From 1847 - 1856, John J. Graves is depicted as the owner. Mr. Graves, a butcher and trader, later lived at 108 Pleasant Street (MHC #87). He is described by Richardson as a country trader of jovial character but moved to the center in 1869 and died there in 1871, aged 59. The building's associations with historic agricultural and commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the house's symmetrical façade and its setting with views across Farmers Row toward the Groton School campus make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.