

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 211 83 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 111

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 54 Hill Road
Historic Name Putnam, Osgood House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential/agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1760

Source Previous GHS Research

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Two detached outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

Center entry modified with plain trim, rear and side additions, mid 20th c.; chimney removed

Condition Fair

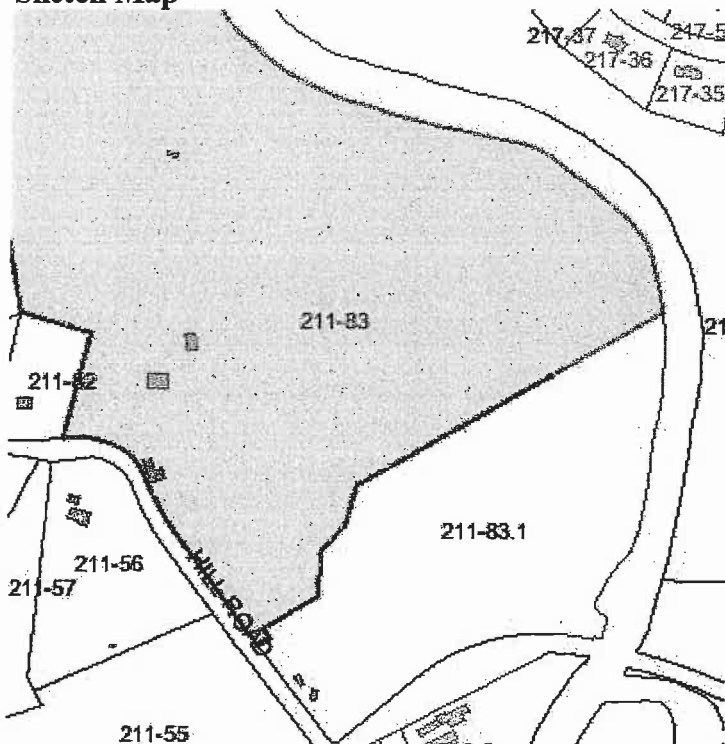
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 75

Setting Rural, open fields

Sketch Map

North Toward Top



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 house at 54 Hill Road is a 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled form with elements of the Colonial style
- * Decorative features are minimal but include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, corner boards and molded cornice
- * An addition of 2 stories containing a garage has been made to the rear (north) and a second addition of 1 story to the east side elevation
- * Windows are 6/9 double-hung sash with plain trim
- * The center entry has 1/2-length sidelights and plain trim that appears to have been added after original construction
- * The house is in fair condition and appears to be vacant
- * The outbuildings are not visible from the road
- * The large parcel of open land presents a rural aspect
- * An interior examination could reveal more details about the period of construction

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 the house at 54 Hill Road is Osgood Putnam in 1828-29 when Caleb Butler recorded in his field notes that the house had its current form and was painted yellow. Mr. Putnam's name appears on the 1847 and 1856 maps of Groton and he is listed as a farmer with 10 children in 1855 census schedules. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 list him as a farmer with 150 acres, a wide variety of livestock, and \$3,500 in hops, a large amount confirmed in Richardson's narrative although Mr. Putnam grew no hops by 1860, reflecting the westerly trend in cultivation of that crop. Mr. Putnam appears in the same year as a manufacturer of wire cloth with one employee and working by hand-power. Richardson also notes that Mr. Putnam later moved to 182 Farmers Row (MHC #86). The 1875 owner was C. Parsons and by 1889, it was occupied by C. H. Hill. This may be Charles Hill whose widow and daughter Bessie, a school teacher, were listed as residents of the neighborhood in the 1918 and 1929 resident directories and on the 1930 Tercentenary Map. Stony and plowable pasture as well as hay fields are depicted on the property on the 1939 WPA map of Groton. Miss Bessie Hill lived at the house until the 1960s and was known as a nature lover and instructor of the subject in New York City and at the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, located at 14 Main Street (MHC #20) where she had charge of the school gardens.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1856 Walling map; 1939 WPA map; 1855, 1865 state census; 1930 Tercentenary Map of Groton; Richardson, "The Community"; Previous GHS research; 1918, 1929 resident directories; 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

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Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.

54 Hill Road

