

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 136 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 25

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)
Groton Center

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 2 Hollis Street
Historic Name Perkins, Aaron House
Uses: Present Offices
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1770

Source Previous GHS Research

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached modern building

Major Alterations (with dates)

Additions, c. 1960

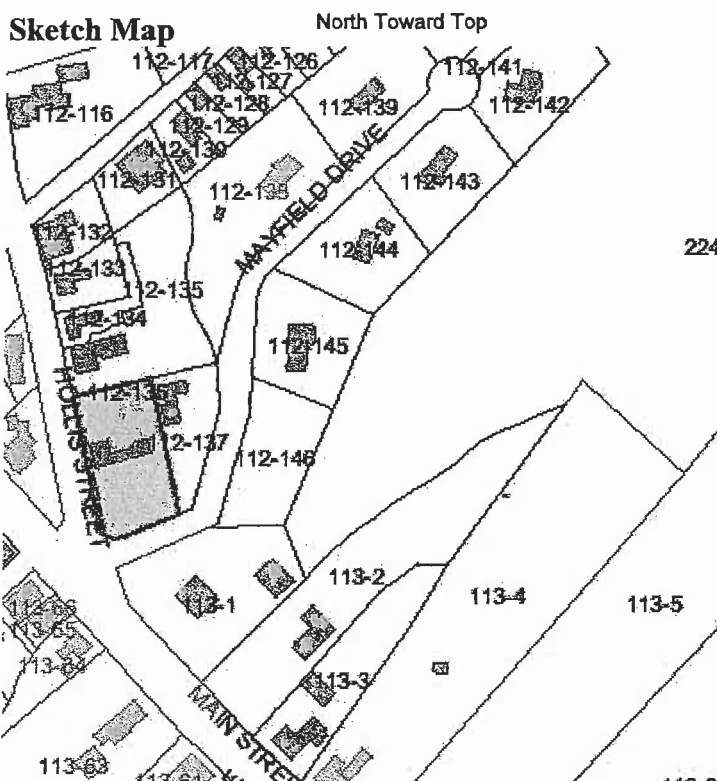
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage approximately .75

Setting Town Center

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 main block of the Perkins House is a side-gabled Colonial style Cape Cod form of 5x2 bays and 1 1/2 stories
 - * Two gabled dormers light the upper floor
 - * Modern additions to the rear of the house include the 5-bay, 2-story gabled section oriented perpendicular to the main block and two gabled 2 1/2-story blocks built parallel to the main block
- Ornamental elements include the molded cornice, symmetrical fenestration in the facade and corner boards
- * Windows in the façade and dormers of the main block are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim
 - * The center entry has a classical surround with blind fan above, 1/2 length sidelights and slim pilasters with molded caps and bases
 - * Granite steps connect the front door to the sidewalk and a granite curb demarcates a slightly elevated dooryard
 - * The large center brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge
 - * The main block of the house retains integrity of design and materials and although the rear additions are modern, they are sheathed in wood clapboards, lit by double-hung sash and contain a suggestion of Colonial-influenced design in their gabled forms
 - * The house is a typical and well-preserved Cape Cod house and occupies a prominent site at the corner of Main and Hollis Streets; an interior examination could reveal more details about the early part of the building

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 Aaron Perkins House was probably built c. 1770 according to previous GHS research. The first known owner was Elijah Whiton, an inventor and later a resident of 163 Main Street (MHC #6). The house was painted white in 1828-29. The 1832 map of Groton indicates Widow Tarbell was the occupant although her name does not appear in tax records from that year. Maps from 1848 and 1856 show Aaron Perkins as the occupant and tax records from 1847 show he owned a house and land valued at \$1,600, an average amount for Groton, although he was also taxed for possession of \$6,000 in stocks and cash, a larger than average amount. Census records from 1855 list him as a farmer. By 1875, the owner was Ezekiel H. Higgins according to the Beers atlas from that year. Census records from 1865 show Mr. Higgins to be a gentleman widower living with his relative, Susan. Tax records confirm his residence at 2 Hollis Street. A. Ames was depicted as the occupant on the 1889 Walker atlas and in 1930, M. Jardine was depicted as the owner. From 1896-1906, the house had an attached barn at the rear with a connecting ell according to Sanborn fire insurance maps. Additions to the main block of the house began during or shortly after Mr. Jardine's occupancy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler's Field Notes, 1828-29; Previous research; 1875 Beers atlas; Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888 resident directory; 1855, 1865 state census; Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1896-1906

** *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.

2 Hollis Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

2 Hollis Street

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

Y

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 Colonial Style Perkins House at 2 Hollis Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Aaron Perkins House was built c. 1770. The first known owner was Elijah Whiton, an inventor and later a resident of 163 Main Street (MHC #6). The house was painted white in 1828-29 according to notes made by cartographer Caleb Butler in 1828-29. The 1832 map of Groton indicates Widow Tarbell was the occupant although her name does not appear in tax records from that year. Maps from 1848 and 1856 show Aaron Perkins as the occupant and tax records from 1847 show he owned a house and land valued at \$1,600, an average amount for Groton, although he was also taxed for possession of \$6,000 in stocks and cash, a larger than average amount. Census records from 1855 list him as a farmer. The building's associations with historic agricultural and commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the Cape Cod house's symmetrical low-posted façade, make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship although additions have been made to the rear and modern outbuildings exist on the parcel.