

**FORM B - Building**

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

Map and Lot # 112 104 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 31

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 51 Hollis Street  
 Historic Name Prescott, Susan School Building  
 Uses: Present Residential  
 Original Girls' school

Date of Construction c. 1790

Source Tercentenary Booklet

Style/Form Federal/Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached 19th barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Windows altered to 2/2 double hung sash, c. 1900

Condition Good

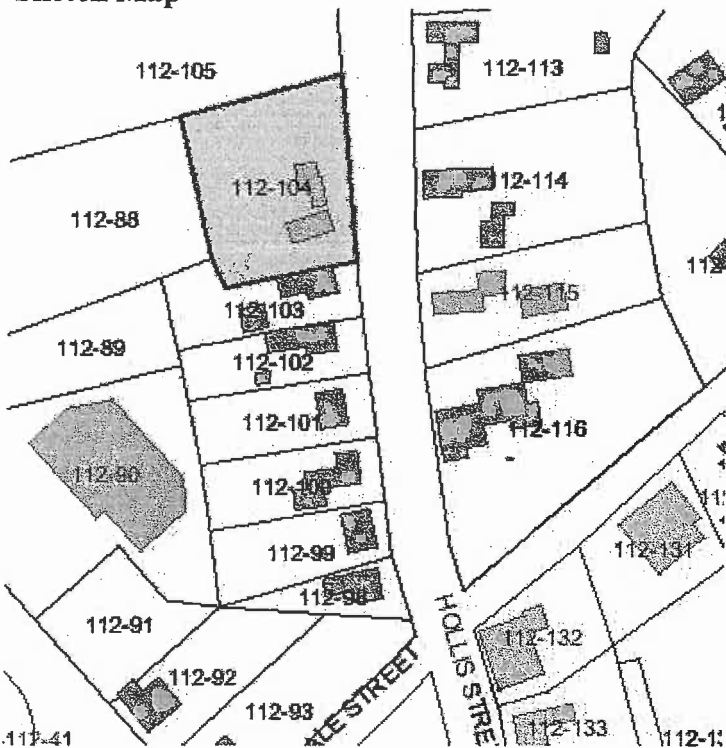
Moved no  yes  Date c. 1850

Acreage .75

Setting Town Center

**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.*

- \* 51 Hollis Street is a ridge-hipped, 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay form with elements of the Federal and Victorian Eclectic styles and a perpendicular rear ell of 1 story attaching a front-gabled 2-story barn
- \* A hip-roofed open porch with jigsaw brackets, turned posts and molded cornice covers the simply trimmed center entry
- \* Federal style elements include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, molded cornice and corner boards
- \* Windows in the main block, plainly trimmed, are 2/2 double-hung sash and do not appear to be original but were likely added in the late 19th or early 20th century
- \* The rear ell is lit by three 6/6 double-hung sash and has a secondary entry
- \* The 19th century barn is clad in wood clapboards, has a rolling vehicle door surmounted by a smaller mow door; double-hung sash light the second story and the gable peak; corner boards, gable returns and a molded cornice articulate the principal elevation of the barn
- \* The lot is wooded and adjoins the Old Burying Ground by a granite slab wall at the north

### 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 house at 51 Hollis Street served as a school building for Miss Susan Prescott who ran a girls' school at the south end of Main Street (MHC #20, 14 Main Street). The house is said by local historians to have been built c. 1790 and moved in 1820 to the site of 14 Main Street. After her marriage in 1829, the school closed and the house was moved to this location. 1830 tax valuations show Mr. John Wright, Susan Prescott's new husband, as the owner of \$7,600 in real property which may have included 51 Hollis Street. Butler's field notes from 1828-29 make no mention of the house, suggesting it was moved after that time. The 1847 Butler map depicts Mrs. A. Mansfield at this location which may refer to Abi Mansfield who is listed in the 1855 census as a 69-year-old head of household with 8 children and grandchildren. By 1875, Mrs. Mary A. McDonough was the occupant according to the Beers Atlas and owner of a house, barn and a cow according to tax records from that year. The 1889 atlas shows the property as the William McDonald estate which may be a corruption of McDonough and may actually refer to Mrs. McDonough. Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1896-1906 depict the existing attached barn in place.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Tercentenary Booklet, p. 25; Butler's field notes, 1828-29; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1856 Walling map; 1939 WPA map; Tax records, 1830-1889; 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  
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**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

51 Hollis Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

51 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 Federal Style Prescott School Building at 51 Hollis Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house at 51 Hollis Street was built for Miss Susan Prescott who ran a girls' school at the south end of Main Street (MHC #20, 14 Main Street). After her marriage in 1829, the house was moved to this location. 1830 tax valuations show MR. John Wright, Susan Prescott's new husband, as the owner of \$7,600 in real property which may have included 51 Hollis Street. The building's associations with historic educational activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the well-maintained house's symmetrical façade, hipped roof, Victorian entry porch and surviving barn make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.