

FORM B - Building

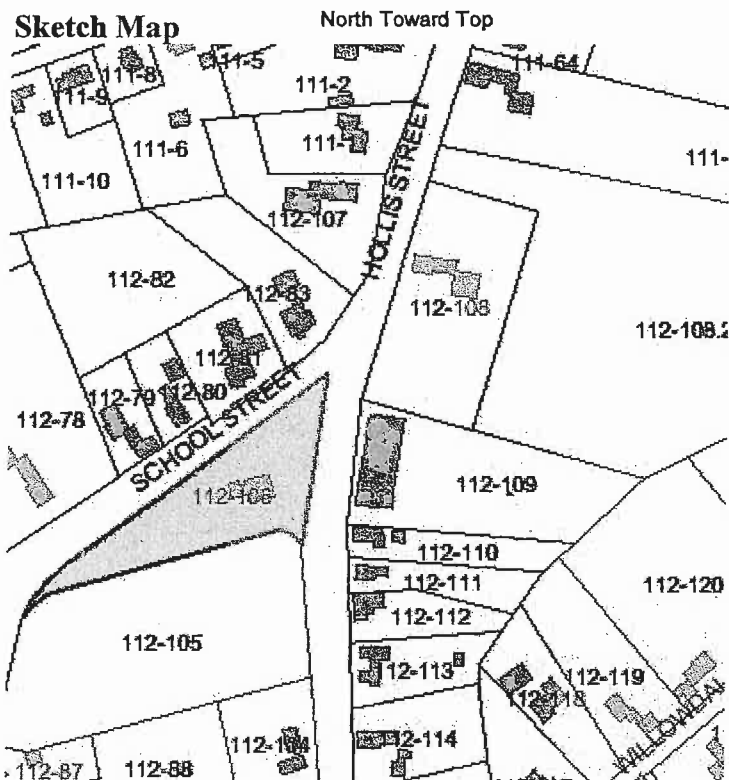
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

Map and Lot # 112 106 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 137

Town Groton

Place (neighborhood or village)

Groton Center

Address 75 Hollis Street

Historic Name Chaplin School

Uses: Present Institutional (Legion Hall)

Original Institutional (school)

Date of Construction 1869

Source Town Reports

Style/Form Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder Wm. T. Lawrence, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Roof replaced, 1938

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1

Setting Town Center

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 Victorian Eclectic style Chaplin School-Legion Hall is a brick 2 1/2-story, 3x3-bay, front-gabled form with a gabled 2-story wood clapboard rear addition from c. 1900
- * Decorative features include the deep eaves, molded cornice with gable returns and the variety of window types in the east facing façade
- * Windows in the façade are paired arched openings in the center of both stories with arched brick hoods and granite lintels as well as an oculus in the gable peak; 6/6 double-hung sash light the outer bays of the second story; side elevations are lit by three 6/6 double-hung sash on each story with arched hoods and granite lintels
- * Entrance is through two doors in the outer bays of the first story
- * The well-maintained building is taller than most other 2-story examples due to its institutional purpose and occupies a prominent site at the corner of Hollis and School Streets just north of the Old Burying Ground

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 Chaplin School, now the Laurence W. Gay American Legion Post 55, was built in 1869, at the time one of 14 public schools in town. William T. Lawrence supplied the brick from his brickyard. The building was originally called District School #14 and named in 1874 for the Reverend Daniel Chaplin, Groton's First Parish minister from 1778 to 1825. First and second graders attended classes on the first floor while third and fourth graders occupied the second. Jennie Longley of Indian Hill Road was a teacher for over 30 years in the school, a function the two-room building served until 1914 when the last of the students from the old district schools were transferred to either the Boutwell school located across Hollis Street or to the Tarbell School in West Groton. The 1901 Sanborn maps indicate the building was known as the Packard School and had the current rear addition in place. The American Legion, established by the American Expeditionary Force in Paris in March, 1919 and chartered by Congress in September of that year, took over the former school in 1919 where it held meetings to support efforts to establish the U. S. Veterans' Bureau (predecessor to the modern VA), enlarge membership in the Boy Scouts, lobby for funding of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and to implement the Flag Code to regulate treatment of our national symbol. Laurence Gay, one of 92 men from Groton in WWI, was born on Gay Road in 1897, attended Lawrence Academy and the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He served in the 101st Field Artillery under Commander Daniel Needham (resident of 208 Main Street, MHC #138), sailed for Liverpool in 1917 and then to LeHavre, Guer and Verdun in France where he fought in the Second Battle of the Marne northeast of Paris in September of 1918 and later was a victim of a gas attack four days before the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. He was buried in France and reinterred in Groton in 1921. Daniel Needham was the first Commander of the American Legion Post #55. The Legion Hall continues to serve civic functions such as book signings and bake sales in addition to American Legion meetings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHS research; Tercentenary Booklet p. 76; 1875, 1889 atlases; Helen McCarthy Sawyer, "People and Places of Groton", p. 8 and "More People and Places of Groton", p. 9; "Groton at 350", pp. 80, 170; 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.
-

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

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

Area(s)

Form No.

75 Hollis Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
75 Hollis Street

Area(s)
Y

Form No.

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 Victorian Eclectic Style American Legion Post and former Chaplin School at 75 Hollis Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The former school, now called the Laurence W. Gay American Legion Post 55, was built of brick in 1869 and was at the time one of 14 public schools in town. The building was originally called District School #14 and named in 1874 for the Reverend Daniel Chaplin, Groton's First Parish minister from 1778 to 1825 and after the religious schism of 1826, the Congregationalist minister. First and second graders attended classes on the first floor while third and fourth graders occupied the second. Jennie Longley of Indian Hill Road was a teacher for over 30 years in the school, a function the two-room building served until 1914 when the last of the students from the old district schools were transferred to either the Boutwell school located across Hollis Street or to the Tarbell School in West Groton. The 1901 Sanborn maps indicate the building was known as the Packard School and had the existing rear addition in place. The building's associations with historic educational activity in Groton and its location on the town's initial common establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the school's double-arched windows in the façade, oculus in the gable peaks, separate boys' and girls' entries at the sides of the façade and the prominent window hoods in the side elevations make the property eligible under Criterion C. The school retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.