

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 111 64 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 103

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 118 Hollis Street
Historic Name Gardner House-Gerrish Store
Uses: Present Residential
Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1783

Source Dr. Green

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Repaired, remodeled into three condominiums, 2005

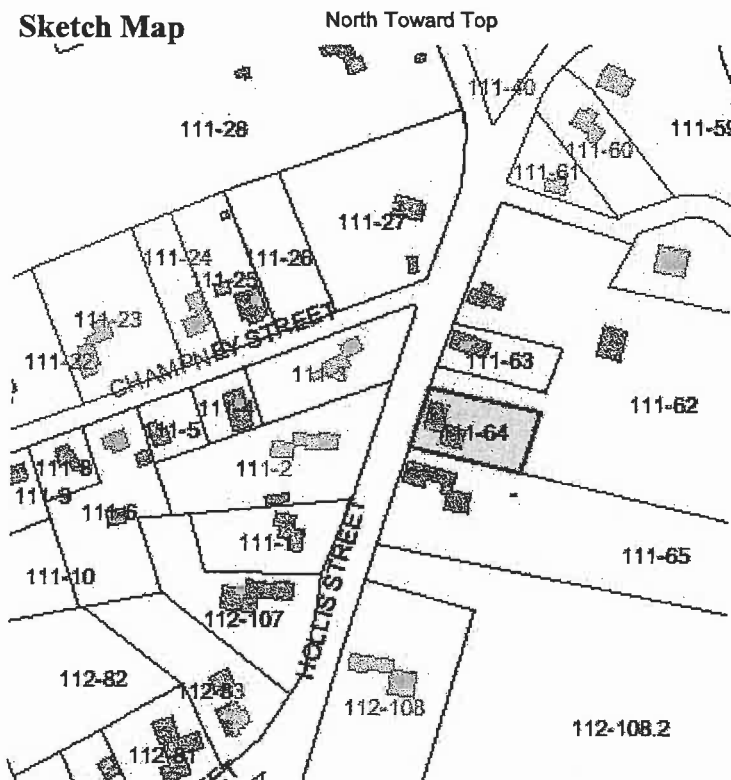
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date Late 19th c.

Acres .5

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 former Gerrish Store is a 6x3-bay, 2-story, ridge-hipped form with elements of the Federal style and a 1 1/2-story wood clapboard front-gabled addition at the southeast corner; an open gable-roofed porch covers the two center entries
- * Decorative features include the corner boards, molded cornice and symmetrical façade
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain exterior trim
- * The paired center entries each have double leaf doors, plain trim and are covered by a gabled porch supported by square posts with molded caps and bases; an entablature atop the posts supports the raking cornice of the porch
- * The gabled addition at the southeast corner is a 3x2-bay form with a pent roof that covers the center entry and integrates the bay window in the façade
- * Two tall brick chimneys rise from the north and south slope of the hipped roof
- * The former store is well-maintained and is in use as a multiple unit residence
- * The 6x3-bay hip-roofed form is unique in Groton

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 former Gerrish Store was built for Major Thomas Gardner at the corner of Main Street and Lowell Road in 1783 according to Dr. Green's historical series and to Virginia May. Major Gardner conducted business in this building and lived in Waters House at 11 Lowell Road (MHC #12). Subsequent store operators were Abner Wheeler, Park & Woods, Park & Potter, Potter & Gerrish and Charles Gerrish who ran the business for over 30 years and moved the building to its current location in 1885 (Daniel C. Lovell was listed in the 1888 resident directory as a building mover and may have been involved in this project). The 1832 Butler map depicts but does not name the building although tax records from 1830 indicate Stuart J. Park, owner of the house now at 36 Main Street (MHC #19) owned an "old store", possibly referring to this building. Tax records from 1847 show that Potter and Gerrish owned a store with stock in trade at \$4,200, a large amount for such a building in Groton. Mr. Gerrish was a trader, lived across Main Street from the store's original location in 1855 and boarded two clerks according to the 1855 census. The 1856 Walling map and the 1875 Beers atlas labeled the building "Gerrish Store". Around this time, the building was home to a boarder named Robert H. Terrell, an African American Lawrence Academy student who, born as a slave, went on to become a lawyer, teacher and municipal judge in Washington DC. The building had been moved to Hollis Street by the time of the 1889 Walker map and is not depicted. Mr. Gerrish went on to own several farms in addition to his store by 1889. Additional functions included that of post office, high school and offices. The owner from at least 1918- 1929 was George Lawrence, a (brick) mason according to resident directories and to previous research. By 1977, it had become a multi-unit residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler maps of 1832 and 1847; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; Dr. Green, Vol. 2, p. 4; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1855, 1865 state census; Sawyer, "People and Places of Groton", pp. 87-88; May, "Groton Houses", pp. 31, 93;

**** 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.

118 Hollis Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
118 Hollis Street

Area(s)

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

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 Gerrish Store at 118 Hollis Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The former Gerrish Store was built for Major Thomas Gardner at the corner of Main Street and Lowell Road in 1783 according to Dr. Green's historical series. Major Gardner conducted business in this building and lived in Waters House at 11 Lowell Road (MHC #12). Subsequent store operators were Abner Wheeler, Park & Woods, Park & Potter, Potter & Gerrish and Charles Gerrish who ran the business for over 30 years and moved the building to its current location in 1885. Mr. Gerrish was a trader, lived across Main Street from the store's original location in 1855 and boarded two clerks according to the 1855 census. The 1856 Walling map and the 1875 Beers atlas labeled the building "Gerrish Store". The building had been moved to Hollis Street by the time of the 1889 Walker map and is not depicted. The building's associations with historic commercial activity in Groton establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the store's symmetrical façade (now altered with a double entry for its recent use as a multiple unit residence) make the property eligible under Criterion C. The store retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship although the function has been altered.