

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 92 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 36

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)

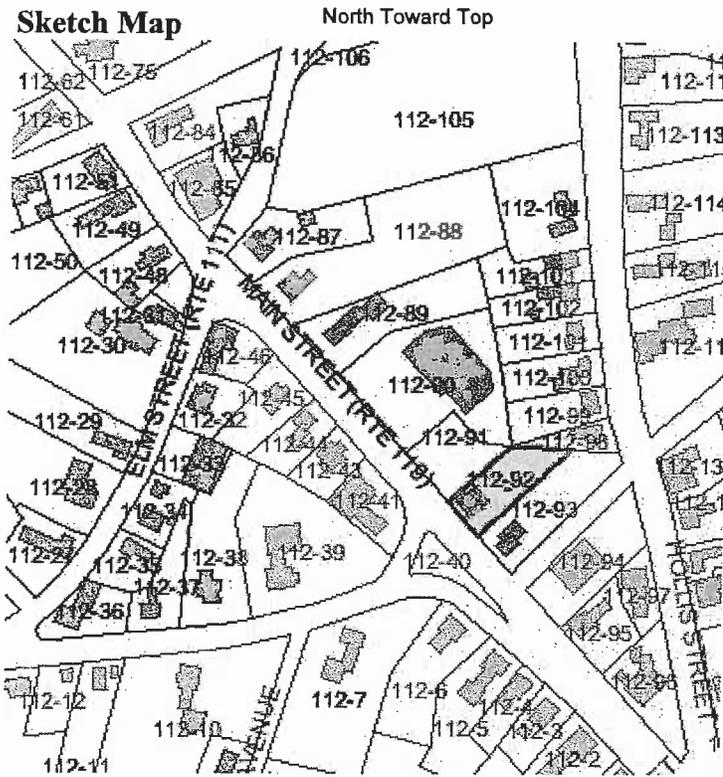
Address 228 Main Street
 Historic Name Childs, Calvin House
 Uses: Present Residential
 Original Residential
 Date of Construction c. 1821
 Source Modified Burleigh bird's eye view

Style/Form Federal
 Architect/Builder
 Exterior Material:
 Foundation Granite
 Wall/Trim Wood clapboard
 Roof Asphalt shingle
 Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good
 Moved no yes Date
 Acreage .335
 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.

- * 228 Main Street is a Federal style, 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay, side-gabled form with a rear addition of 2 stories
- * Decorative features include the corner boards, molded cornice and symmetrical fenestration in the façade
- * Windows are mainly 12/12 double-hung sash with projecting beaded trim with the exception of the 6/6 window in the south side gable peak and the 6/6 units in the second story of the south elevation of the rear addition
- * The center entry is trimmed in classical detail including entablature, pilasters and sidelights
- * The front dooryard is demarcated by a locally unusual low retaining wall of granite slabs divided in the center by a set of granite steps; low granite posts mark the corners of the wall
- * 2 brick corbelled chimneys rise from the rear slope of the roof
- * The house is typical of Federal style residences in Groton Center in terms of scale, design quality and materials although it is more well maintained than the average; the setting is immediately adjacent to Main Street and to the modern commercial building housing a grocery store

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 228 Main Street was built c. 1821 by the blacksmith Calvin Childs, although it is not depicted on the Butler Map of 1832. The date of construction and first owner are derived from remarks written c. 1910 on a copy of the 1886 Burleigh bird's eye view of Groton that include former owner names and construction dates for some Groton Center houses. In his field notes for the 1832 map, Butler lists Calvin Child (spelled elsewhere as Childs) as the occupant of the house which was painted white at the time. Mr. Childs is also depicted as the owner on maps and atlases from 1847, 1856 and 1875, the year he was taxed for ownership of a house, barn and blacksmith shop. His wife, Mary and three boarders who worked as blacksmiths were recorded in his house in the 1855 census. The 1865 census reveals that he was born c. 1795 in NH, kept a housekeeper and lived with his relative William, also a blacksmith. Mr. Childs' shop is was demolished in the 1960s but stood northwest of the house at the current site of 232 Main Street (a modern dry cleaning store). The Sanborn fire insurance map from 1906 shows the house to be connected to the blacksmith shop as well as a wheel wright shop to the north. The 1889 atlas depicts the property as belonging to the Calvin Childs estate, indicating he had died by that time. Dr. David R. Steere lived in the house c. 1910. A subsequent owner named Thomas Bywater also ran the smithy according to the resident directory from 1918. Previous GHS research indicates the house remained in the Bywater family until at least 1967.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous research; 1918 resident directory; Butler maps of 1832, 1847 and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1889 Modified Burleigh bird's eye view; 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.

228 Main Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

228 Main Street

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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

The Federal Style house at 228 Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house was built c. 1821 for the blacksmith Calvin Childs, although it is not depicted on the Butler Map of 1832. In his field notes for the 1832 map, Butler lists Calvin Child (spelled elsewhere as Childs) as the occupant of the house which was painted white at the time. Mr. Childs is also depicted as the owner on maps and atlases from 1847, 1856 and 1875, the year he was taxed for ownership of a house, barn and blacksmith shop. The building's associations with early industrial activity establish its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the house's symmetrical facade and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.