

# FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 216 84 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 74

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 18 Nod Road  
Historic Name Lewis Tavern  
Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential  
Date of Construction c. 1800  
Source Boutwell, p. 14

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Modern barn and modern shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

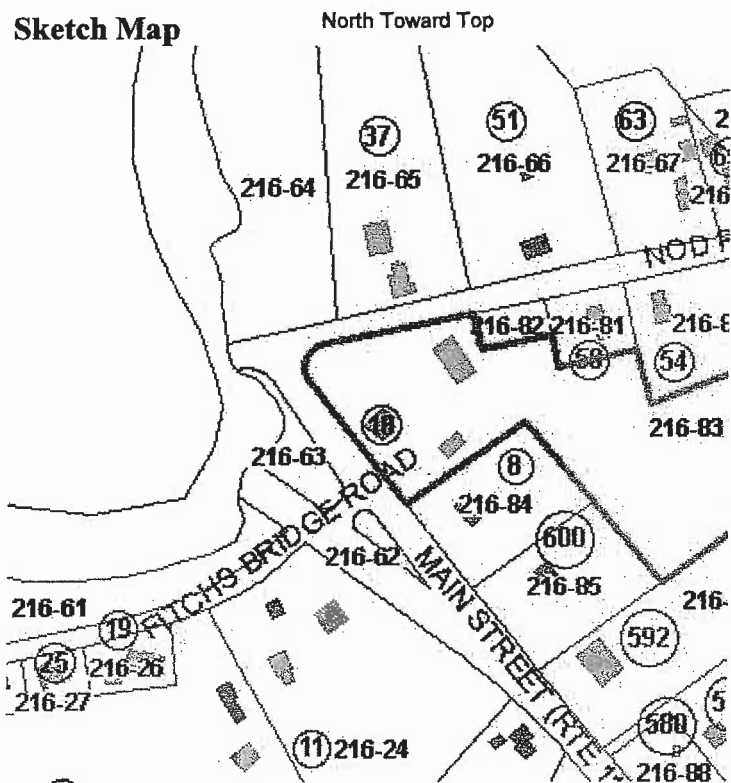
Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acreage 4.5

Setting Rural

## 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.*

- \* 8 Nod Road is a Federal style, 2 1/2-story, 5x3-bay, side-gabled form
- \* Decorative features include the corner boards, molded cornice, gable returns and symmetrical fenestration in the façade
- \* Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim; windows in the two east bays of the south elevation are mullied
- \* The center entry is trimmed in classical detail including entablature, pilasters and sidelights
- \* A slim brick corbelled chimney rises from the center of the of the roof ridge
- \* The house is typical of Federal style residences in Groton in terms of scale, design quality and materials
- \* The setting is immediately adjacent to Main Street north of Groton Center and just east of the Nashua River

### 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.*

John Capell bought existing mills on the Nashua River in 1793 according to his daughter, Sarah Gilson who was interviewed in the late 19th century by Francis M. Boutwell. Dr. Green states that the dam was first built here in 1780. Mr. Capell bought a saw and grist mill and a one-story house and later built this 2 1/2-story house at the corner of Nod Road and Main Street, c. 1800. The 1832 Butler map depicts the house as Aaron Lewis' tavern, one of five in town at the time. He had painted the house a slate color, according to the field notes. Mr. Lewis remained here until at least 1847 according to the map from that year. Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 indicate he had died by that time. Previous research by the GHS indicates an owner named Veazie after Mr. Lewis. By 1856, the house was owned by John Mark Hollingsworth who was the owner of the mills, built for sawing lumber and grinding corn in 1841 by Oliver Howe and later converted to paper production, on the nearby Nashua River. Mr. Howe is listed in the Non-population Census Schedules in 1850 as the owner of a grain mill with three stones and a saw mill with two saws powered by water and employing one hand. Mr. Hollingsworth also owned a blacksmith shop to the southeast of the house. Dr. Green reports that John Mark's brother Lyman Hollingsworth bought the mill in 1865. The atlas and tax records from 1875 depict Lyman Hollingsworth as the owner of several houses including one called the "Tavern House and Barn", probably the former Lewis Tavern valued at \$1,000, in addition to mills on the Squannacook River in West Groton and the mills on the Nashua River formerly near the location of 18 Nod Road. Mr. Hollingsworth was a resident of 58 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston and had offices for his paper manufacturing company Tileston and Hollingsworth in rooms 36 at 31 Milk Street in Boston in 1885 and at 141 Milk Street in 1918. The stock in trade was worth \$12,000, the buildings \$15,000 and the machinery and engine, \$22,000 which is a great deal for a business in Groton. Dr. Green describes two fires at the millsite which may have caused the final disappearance of manufacturing from this location in the early 20th century. The mill

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

May, "Groton Plantation", p. 15; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1896-1906; Groton at 350; 1855 and 1865 state census; Previous GHS research; Boston resident directories, 1885; Boutwell, "People and Their Homes in Groton, Massachusetts in Olden Times", p. 14 Green, Vol. 2, p. 441; Tercentenary, p. 36; 1930 Groton map; Non-population Census Schedules;

\*\* 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**                      **Property Address**

Groton

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**Area(s)**                      **Form No.****18 Nod Road      Historical Narrative**

buildings no longer exist but it is presumable that the Lewis Tavern served patrons, employees and buyers of the product. John Mark Hollingsworth continued to own the tavern until the time of the publication of the Walker atlas in 1889 by which time the paper mills on the Nashua River are no longer in evidence. The 1930 owner was Arnold Cave, a chauffeur, who lived here with his wife Dora.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Town**  
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**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

18 Nod Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

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Community Groton  
Property Address  
18 Nod Road

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

The Federal Style house at 18 Nod Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. John Capell bought existing mills on the Nashua River in 1793 according to his daughter, Sarah Gilson who was interviewed in the late 19th century by Francis M. Boutwell. Mr. Capell bought the saw and grist mill and a one-story house and later built this 2 1/2-story house at the corner of Nod Road and Main Street, c. 1800. The 1832 Butler map depicts the house as Aaron Lewis' tavern, one of five in town at the time. He had painted the house a slate color, according to Butler's 1828-29 field notes. Mr. Lewis remained here until at least 1847 according to the map from that year. Previous research by the GHC indicates an owner named Veazie after Mr. Lewis. By 1856, the house was owned by John Mark Hollingsworth who was the owner of the mills, built for sawing lumber and grinding corn in 1841 by Oliver Howe and later converted to paper production, on the nearby Nashua River. Mr. Hollingsworth also owned a blacksmith shop to the southeast of the house. Dr. Green reports that John Marks' brother Lyman Hollingsworth bought the mill in 1865. The atlas and tax records from 1875 depict Lyman Hollingsworth as the owner of several houses including one called the "Tavern House and Barn", probably the former Lewis Tavern valued at \$1,000, in addition to mills on the Squannacook River in West Groton and the mills on the Nashua River formerly near the location of 8 Nod Road. The building's associations with early commerce and industry establish its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the 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.