FORM B - Building

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

Town Groton

Map and Lot#

222 46

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)

Sketch Map

North Toward Top

222-28

222-28

222-27

INDIANTHILL ROAD

222-45

222-45

222-47

222-46

221-67

Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

Address 255 Old Ayer Road

Historic Name Lawrence - Page House

Uses: Present Residential - Agricultural

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

51

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1786

Source Virginia May, p. 202, "Groton Plantation"

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite, fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Detached modern barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Additional bays, c. 1840; Rear ell rebuilt, interior walls removed, c. 1914

Condition Good

Moved no ✓ yes ☐ Date

Acreage 42.52 Setting Rural

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

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ARCHITECTURAL	A APPANE IN THE LEADING		see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * 255 Old Ayer Road is a 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled house with modern exterior materials and rear additions not visible from the road; a brick bay window of 2 stories exists at the south elevation
- * Decorative features include the modern segmental arch over the center entry
- * Windows are either fixed 8-pane sash or casements; occuli light the attic in the gable peaks
- * The detached barn is a large, modern, side-gabled form with a central wall gable flanked by two tall pyramidal ventilators
- * Horse paddocks and post and rail fences line the property, suggesting agricultural or equestrian activities take place on the 45 acre parcel

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 Butler map of 1832 indicates the owner of the house was Curtis Lawrence who remained here until at least 1856. The construction date is based on May's research stating the house was built by Joel Lawrence, b. 1767 and later occupied by his son Curtis. Butler's field notes from 1828-29 describe an old house that was two stories but had only two windows across the façade, suggesting a later addition to achieve a five-bay façade. By 1875, it was the property of George Litchfield according to the Beers Atlas of that year. From 1913-1938, it was the home of the farmer Fredrick G. and Elizabeth May and their relative Maria who worked as a teacher in 1918 according to the resident directory from that year. Mr. May rebuilt the rear ell c. 1914 and remodeled the interior. By 1929, the May's family members Robert and Virginia also lived here. Robert May was a partner in the May and Hally company, a trucking business in 1929 which is still in business on Court Street in Groton Center dealing in heating equipment and oil. Virginia May was the author in the 1970s of "Groton Houses" and "Groton Plantations" and also edited the Groton Tercentenary Booklet in 1955. The Drumlins south and east of the house were described in geography texts by Alexis Everett Frye from the early 20th century as perfect examples of the type. Named Underhill Farm in the 1960s by Lyndley Sutton, historic photo shows central wall gable, full front porch. I was owned in the 1920s by Fred G. May who removed rear ell in 1913 when he bought the house from Mrs. Nowell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES	continuation	sheet
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Resident Directories, 1918, 1929; Previous research; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1856 Walling Map; 1832 Butler Map and field notes; May, "Plantation", p. 202; May, "Houses", p. 11;

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.



