



## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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; oculi 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

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;

**\*\* 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**

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

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

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

255 Old Ayer Road

