

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 7 USGS Quad Y Area(s) Form Number 37

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 13 Pleasant Street

Historic Name Alexander, Amos House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1835

Source Butler's field notes, 1828-29; 1847 map

Style/Form Federal/Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached barn, 19th c.

Major Alterations (with dates)

Second story added, c. 1900

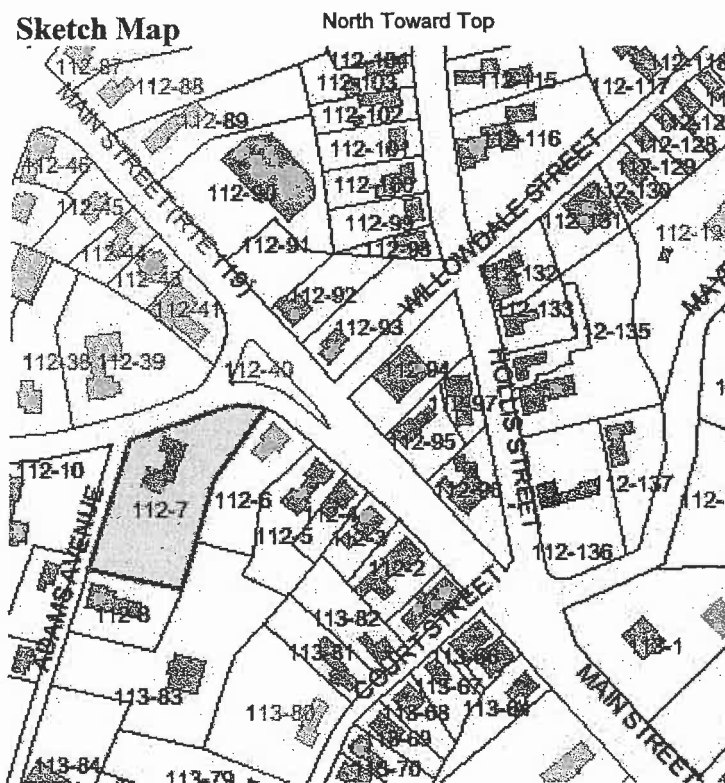
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.25

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.

- * 13 Pleasant Street is a 5x1-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story house with elopements of the Federal and Victorian Eclectic styles; two rear additions of 2 stories enlarge the main block; the additions both have porches facing east; secondary masses on the façade include the full-width front porch covering the first story and the central bay window in the second story which rests upon the vestibule under the front porch
- * Decorative features consist of the corner pilasters, gable returns, swags in the frieze of the bay window, molded cornice, symmetrical fenestration in the façade and the frieze across under the eave of the façade; square posts with molded caps and bases support the porch roof
- * Windows in the second story of the façade are 6/6 double-hung sash; those under the porch are 2/1 units; windows in the sides of the bay window are 4/4 units
- * The center entry has plain trim at the door and pilasters at the edge of the vestibule
- * A slim brick chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof
- * The house is similar in scale, design and materials to others from the period in Groton Center

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 main block of the house at 13 Pleasant Street was probably built c. 1835 for Amos Alexander, although members of the Farnsworth family are said by GHS researchers to have occupied the site, possibly in an older rear portion of the current house that contains interior corner posts suggestive of pre-1830 construction. Mr. Alexander was a tavern keeper from c. 1824-1830 at the site of 240 Main Street (now occupied by a modern supermarket). Previous GHS research also indicates the house was originally one and one half stories and was enlarged to two and one half stories some time in the 19th century. Butler's 1832 map and 1828-29 field notes do not indicate this section of Pleasant Street to be in existence but was laid out between 1832 and 1847. Mr. Alexander lived at 13 Pleasant Street by the time of the publication of Butler's 1847 map of Groton Center and remained here until at least 1856. Tax records from 1830 and 1847 confirm his ownership of the property and census records from 1855 list him as a farmer, born c. 1777. By 1875, the occupants were Nathan Gallott, a farmer born c. 1802, his wife Sarah and Robert G. Shedd, a 26-year-old "gentleman" from Vermont according to the 1865 census. While census records suggest the Gallotts as the owners, Mr. Shedd is listed as such on the 1875 atlas which makes no mention of the Gallotts. A subsequent owner was Myron Swallow who worked as a butter maker according to the 1888 resident directory and is listed as a tax collector in the 1918 directory. Mr. Swallow's widow Martha continued to live here until at least 1929 according to the resident directories from those years. The Swallows' daughter, Mrs. Howard Gilson occupied the house in 1967.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHS research; 1888, 1918, 1929 resident directories; 1832, 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling Map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; Previous GHS deed research; 1939 WPA Map; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1888, 1918, 1929 resident directories; Tax records, 1830-1889;

**** 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.

13 Pleasant Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
13 Pleasant Street

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 and Victorian Eclectic Style house at 13 Pleasant Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The main block of the house at 13 Pleasant Street was probably built c. 1835 for Amos Alexander, although members of the Farnsworth family are said by GHC researchers to have occupied the site, possibly in an older rear portion of the current house that contains interior corner posts suggestive of pre-1830 construction according to GHC researchers. Mr. Alexander was a tavern keeper from c. 1824-1830 at the site of 240 Main Street (now occupied by a modern supermarket). Previous GHC research also indicates the house was originally one and one half stories and was enlarged to two and one half stories some time in the 19th century. Butler's 1832 map and 1828-29 field notes do not indicate this section of Pleasant Street to be in existence because it was laid out between 1832 and 1847. Mr. Alexander lived at 13 Pleasant Street by the time of the publication of Butler's 1847 map of Groton Center and remained here until at least 1856. Tax records from 1830 and 1847 confirm his ownership of the property and census records from 1855 list him as a farmer, born c. 1777. The building's associations with agricultural activities establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the symmetrical Federal style façade with Victorian Eclectic style porch and bays, the surviving exterior materials and details make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.