

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 109 45 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 104
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 96 Pleasant Street
Historic Name Gill House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1840

Source Butler's field notes, 1828-29

Style/Form Federal-Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Pavilion, porches added, late 19th c.

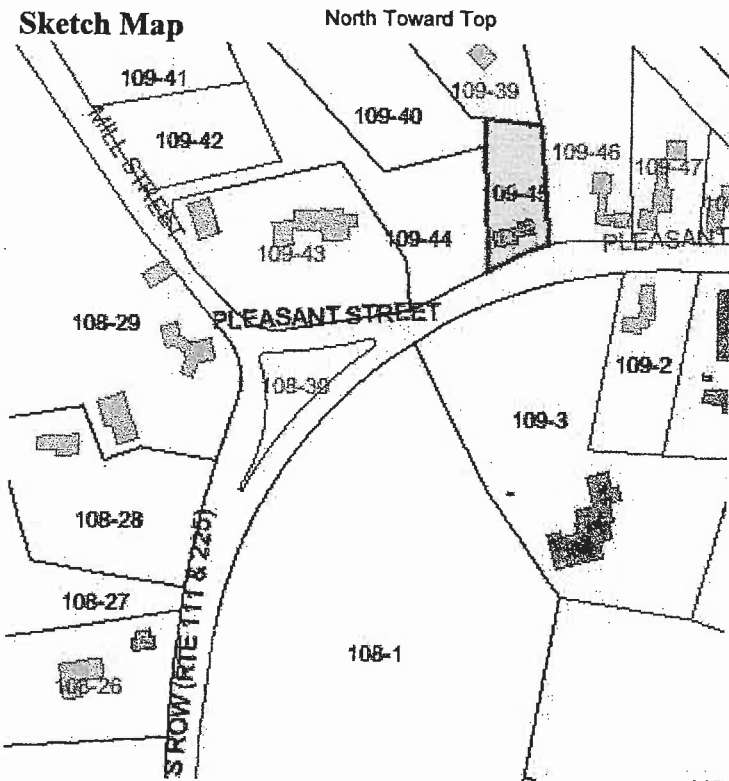
Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage .75

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.

- * 96 Pleasant Street is a side-gabled, 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay form with elements of the Federal and Victorian Eclectic styles; the east side of the house is expanded by a 1 1/2-story ell that connects the front-gabled carriage barn; the first story of the façade of the house is covered by a full-width hipped porch that is surmounted by a gabled pavilion
- * Federal style details include the molded cornice, gable returns and corner pilasters as well as the symmetrical fenestration of the façade; the cornice of the porch rests on four turned posts which suggest a Victorian influence
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim; the center entry is also simply trimmed
- * 2 brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge
- * The attached barn is clad in wood clapboards and lit by 6/6 sash in the gable peak and at the west side of the first story; a rolling vehicle door occupies the east side of the façade while a pedestrian door is near the center; a mow door gives access to the upper floor above the rolling door; architectural details imitate those on the house and include the corner pilasters, gable returns, molded cornice
- * The short ell connecting the house and barn has a gambrel roof pierced by a gabled dormer and a picture window below
- * the house and connected barn are in excellent condition, are typical of houses with connected outbuildings in Groton Center and are similar in scale and design to the neighbor at 82 Pleasant Street

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 first known owner of the property at 96 Pleasant Street was Thomas Dodge according to the 1832 Butler map although Butler's field notes indicate a house of only one story, suggesting it was rebuilt shortly afterward. Also, 1830 tax valuations indicate Mr. Dodge's relative Samuel Dodge may have been the legal owner of the house. Around 1840, the occupant was, according to research by the GHS, Minot Leighton, a member of the Millerite religious sect who believed the world would end between the vernal equinoxes of 1843 and 1844 and was led in Groton by Luther Boutelle and Benjamin Hall, among others. The Millerites had a church at the corner of Willowdale and Hollis Streets and later moved to what they called "The Community" which was located on the future site of the Groton School on Farmer's Row. By 1847, the owner of 96 Pleasant Street was the innkeeper Moses Gill who at that time operated Emerson's Tavern at the site of the modern supermarket at 240 Main Street. He also operated inns and hotels in Groton at 130 Main Street in 1836 (Groton Inn, NRIND, MHC #11), 1 Forge Village Road from 1837-1842 (MHC #57), on Lowell Road in Westford from 1842-1847 and on Main Street across from the Union Orthodox Church from 1854-1856. Despite the frequent changes in his place of employment, Mr. Gill (born c. 1800) remained at 96 Pleasant Street until at least 1875 and is listed in 1855 census schedules as an inn keeper and in 1865 as a wheelwright. Mr. Gill was the adopted son of Lt. Governor Moses Gill who served from 1794-1800 under Samuel Adams and Increase Sumner. By 1889, the house was occupied by T. Messenger. By 1939, the land around the house was planted hay and other crops according to the WPA map published in that year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1856 Walling map; Groton at 350; Previous GHS research; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1939 WPA maps;

**** 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.

96 Pleasant Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
96 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 Style house at 96 Pleasant Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The first known owner of the property was Thomas Dodge according to the 1832 Butler map although Butler's field notes indicate a house of only one story, suggesting it was rebuilt shortly afterward. Also, 1830 tax valuations indicate his relative Samuel Dodge may have been the legal owner of the house. Around 1840, the occupant was, according to research by the GHC, Minot Leighton, a member of the Millerite religious sect who believed the world would end between the vernal equinoxes of 1843 and 1844 and was led in Groton by Luther Boutelle and Benjamin Hall, among others. By 1847, the owner of 96 Pleasant Street was the innkeeper Moses Gill who at that time operated Emerson's Tavern at the site of the modern supermarket at 240 Main Street. He also operated inns and hotels in Groton at 130 Main Street in 1836 (Groton Inn, NRIND, MHC #11), 1 Forge Village Road from 1837-1842 (MHC #57), on Lowell Road in Westford from 1842-1847 and on Main Street across from the Union Orthodox Church from 1854-1856. Despite the frequent changes in his place of employment, Mr. Gill (born c. 1800) remained at 96 Pleasant Street until at least 1875 and is listed in 1855 census schedules as an inn keeper and in 1865 as a wheelwright. The building's associations with religious and early industrial activity establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the symmetrical Federal style façade with Victorian additions, the surviving exterior materials and details make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.