

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 116 11 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 143

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 1 Powder House Road
Historic Name Blood, Luther Jr. House
Uses: Present Institutional (Parsonage)
Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1845

Source Virginia May, p. 152

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder Luther Blood, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

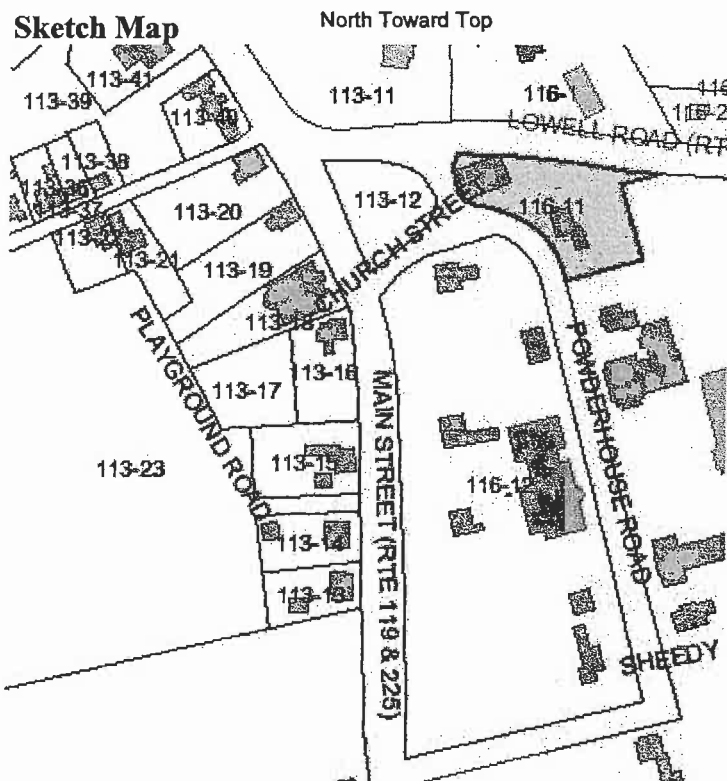
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1 (Shares lot w/ church)

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.

- * The Luther Blood House is a 5x2-bay, 2 1/2-story, side-gabled, Greek Revival style house now in use as a parsonage; the south elevation of the main block is expanded by a 1-story gable-roofed, wood clapboard addition of 4 bays oriented parallel to the main block; an open hipped porch with molded cornice, frieze and square posts with molded caps covers the first story of the north elevation
- * Decorative features are the molded cornice, symmetrical fenestration in the façade, gable returns and corner boards
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim
- * The center entry has a classical surround with entablature, 1/2-length sidelights and pilasters; a secondary entry is located in the south elevation and is enclosed in a small porch with a flat roof, cornice, corner pilasters and 1/1 sash in the side walls; a third entry gives access to the south side addition and has plain trim with an oversize transom
- * Brick chimneys with corbels rise from the roof ridge and one is built onto the south end of the addition
- * The house is very well-maintained and is located between the First Parish Church and the Lawrence Academy campus

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 Luther Blood Jr. (1810-1894) House was probably built in 1845, shortly after his marriage to Sarah Park Stone. Mr. Blood worked as a carpenter and is believed to have built the house himself. Non-population Census Schedules indicate he employed three men. Mr. Blood's shop, located southeast of the house and across from the front door of the current Bigelow Hall on the Lawrence Academy campus, appears in this location on maps from 1856 through the period just after his death in 1894. Local historians suggest but can not ascertain that a cistern built in 1893 near this shop consisted of stones from the disused powder house located during the Colonial Period on High Street, later called Powder House Road. The tax and census records substantiate the facts that Mr. Blood worked as a carpenter, had a shop on his property and also reveal that he was a fairly wealthy man with around \$1,800 in personal assets at the time of his death. Dr. Green states in Hurd's Middlesex County history that Mr. Blood was the builder of the 1835 District #4 school at the southwest corner of Kemp Street and Pepperell Road, the 1871 Lawrence Academy building that burned in 1956 and the wooden predecessor to the current iron Fitch's Bridge (MHC #907), also in 1871. Mr. Blood willed his house to the First Parish Church which at the time was called the Unitarian Church. Mr. Blood's will also stipulated that a fund be created in 1895 and "...the income or interest thereof be annually expended in maintaining a course of Public Lectures in said Town, admission to which shall be free to all inhabitants of said Town." The house remains in use by the First Parish Church.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHS research; 1847 Butler map; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1896-1906; Green Vol. 4, pp. 186, 422; Tax records, 1847-1889; State census, 1855, 1865; Sawyer, "People and Places of Groton", pp. 78-79; Hurd, p. 569; 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.
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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.

1 Powderhouse Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
1 Powderhouse Road

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 Greek Revival Style house at 1 Powderhouse Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Luther Blood Jr. (1810-1894) House was probably built in 1845, shortly after his marriage to Sarah Park Stone. Mr. Blood worked as a carpenter and is believed to have built the house himself. Mr. Blood's shop, located southeast of the house and across from the front door of the current Bigelow Hall on the Lawrence Academy campus, appears in this location on maps from 1856 through the period just after his death in 1895. Local historians suggest but can not ascertain that a cistern built in 1893 near this shop consisted of stones from the disused powder house located during the Colonial Period on High Street, later called Powder House Road. The tax and census records substantiate the facts that Mr. Blood worked as a carpenter, had a shop on his property and also reveal that he was a fairly wealthy man with around \$1,800 in personal assets at the time of his death. He left the house to the First Parich Church upon his death. The building's associations with early industrial and religious activity establish its significance under Criterion A. The design of the symmetrical façade, the surviving exterior materials and details make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.