

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 116 12 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 178

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) Groton Center - Lawrence Academy

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 12 Powder House Road
Historic Name Bigelow, John Prescott Hall
Uses: Present Dormitory
Original Dormitory

Date of Construction 1863

Source Date stone

Style/Form Second Empire

Architect/Builder Charles F. Dingman, (1922)

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Slate shingles

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

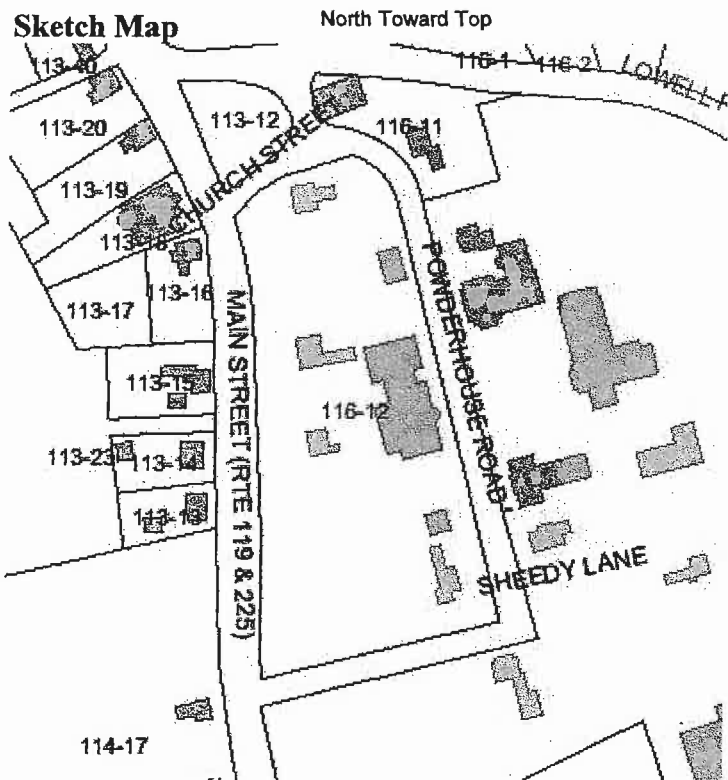
Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage

Setting Lawrence Academy Campus

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.

- * Bigelow Hall, a girls' dormitory at Lawrence Academy, is a 2 1/2-story, 7x2-bay Second Empire style brick building
- * Distinctive features are the slate shingled Mansard Roof with 4 dormer windows across the façade, cornice with paired brackets and modillions, and the central pavilion that projects slightly from the façade and contains the central 3 bays
- * Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash; those in the façade have segmental arched tops done in brick and brackets below the stone sills; the central window in the second story has a round top with brick arch; windows in the dormers have flat roofs, cornices and scrolled side details; the slightly recessed center entry has a segmental arched hood built of brick; above the door and below the round top window is the plaque containing the name and date of the building: "Bigelow Hall/1863"
- * The unique Second Empire design in brick and the institutional scale give the building its significance

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.

Bigelow Hall on the campus of Lawrence Academy was named for Honorable John Prescott Bigelow (1797-1872), an alumnus from c. 1814, son of the lawyer and state representative for Groton from 1793-1806, Timothy Bigelow, and brother in law of Abbott Lawrence, namesake of the academy. Mr. Bigelow went on to become a state representative in 1828, Massachusetts Secretary of State in 1836 and mayor of Boston in 1849-51. He was a lawyer who also served as trustee of the Boston Public Library from 1852-1868. During his professional career, he had correspondence with two presidents (Taylor and Buchanan), Aaron Burr, Edward Everett, Albert Gallatin, Marquis de Lafayette, Francis Parkman, Josiah Quincy, Winfield Scott, Charles Sumner, Daniel Webster and Emily Dickinson's father Edward, a lawyer, business man and representative to the U. S. Congress. Mr. Bigelow died at his home in Boston at 14 Rutland Square and is interred in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Mr. Bigelow's papers are held in the Houghton Library at Harvard College. The building was built as a dormitory for Lawrence Academy Students, a function it continues to perform. The architect Charles F. Dingman performed some work on the building in 1922, although, given the intact appearance of the Second Empire exterior, the work may have been an interior remodeling project or mechanical system upgrade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous research; Massachusetts Archives Department of Public Safety. Division of Plans. Fire Safety Records; Political Graveyard website:<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/bigelow.html>; Harvard University, Houghton Library, John P. Prescott Papers; Butler, pp. 296-297;

**** 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.

12 Powderhouse Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton
Property Address
12 Powderhouse Road

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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 Second Empire Style Bigelow Hall at 12 Powderhouse Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The building is on the campus of Lawrence Academy and was named for Honorable John Prescott Bigelow (1797-1872), an alumnus from c. 1814, son of the lawyer and state representative for Groton from 1793-1806, Timothy Bigelow, and brother in law of Abbott Lawrence, namesake of the academy. Mr. Bigelow went on to become a state representative in 1828, Massachusetts Secretary of State in 1836 and Mayor of Boston in 1849-51. He was a lawyer who also served as trustee of the Boston Public Library from 1852-1868. During his professional career, he had correspondence with two presidents (Taylor and Buchanan), Aaron Burr, Edward Everett, Albert Gallatin and Marquis de Lafayette. Mr. Bigelow died at his home in Boston at 14 Rutland Square and is interred in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Mr. Bigelow's papers are held in the Houghton Library at Harvard College. The building was built as a dormitory for Lawrence Academy Students, a function it continues to perform. The building's association with historic political and educational activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the locally unusual Second Empire brick building and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The dormitory retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.