

# FORM B - Building

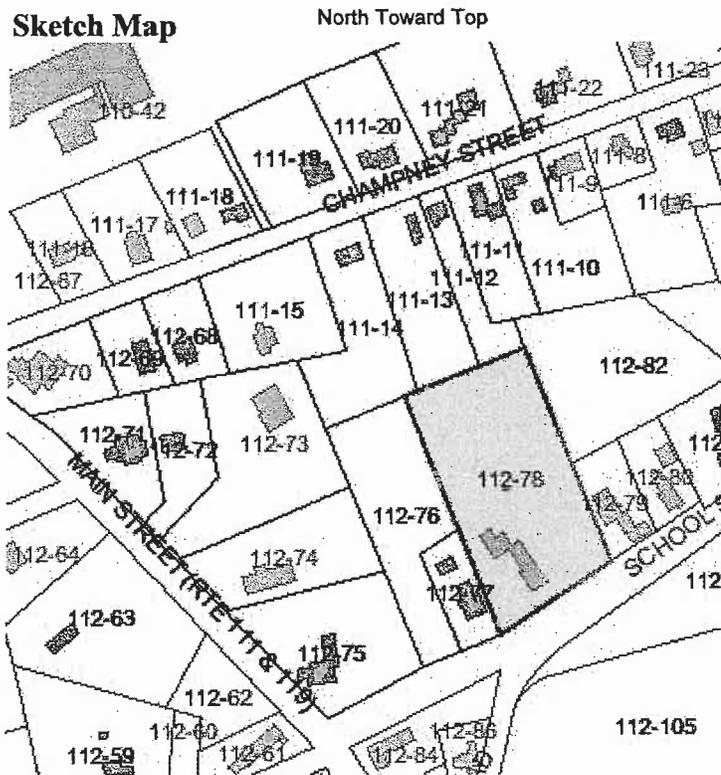
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

## Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2"x5" 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)

## Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 6/06

Map and Lot # 112 78 USGS Quad Area(s) Y Form Number 33, 226

Town Groton

Place (neighborhood or village)

Groton Center

Address 25 School Street

Historic Name Swan, Maj. William House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1774

Source Dr. Green, Vol. 3, p. 253

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Attached 18th c. barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Possibly rebuilt or enlarged, c. 1800

Condition Good

Moved no  yes  Date

Acres 2.27

Setting Town Center

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.*

- \* 25 School Street is a 5x4-bay, side-gabled, 2 1/2-story, Federal style house oriented perpendicular to the street; a 2-story parallel gabled addition of 7 bays has been made to the rear of the house and connects the side-gabled barn that is perpendicular to the house and rear addition; an open porch covers the first story of the addition
- \* Architectural ornament consists of the nearly symmetrical fenestration in the façade and perfect symmetry in the south side elevation, molded cornice, gable returns, water table and corner boards
- \* Windows in the main block are 6/6 double-hung sash with beaded trim; a third window has been added between the two in the south half of the second story of the façade; windows in the rear addition are 6/6 units in the first story and smaller fixed 4-pane sash in the second;
- \* The center entry has classical trim in the form of an entablature, pilasters and 1/2-length sidelights; three additional doors give access to the rear addition
- \* The English barn has the main vehicle entry with rolling door in the south eave side; a mow door, pedestrian door and 6/6 sash fill additional openings in the principal elevation of the barn; exterior material is wood clapboards
- \* The well-maintained house and barn retain a great deal of original character and materials and occupy a spacious lot across School Street from the Old Burying Ground

### 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.*

An early part of this house may have been built c. 1774 for the Revolutionary War veteran and trader Major William Swan (born in Boston, 1745) according to Dr. Green's research. Major Swan operated a store on the property in the late 18th century and was an original trustee and treasurer of Lawrence Academy. He marched from Groton to Saratoga, NY in 1777 and also served as court clerk in Groton from 1783-1789. A subsequent owner was Reverend Daniel Chaplin, elected to the ministry of the First Parish Church in 1778 after the dismissal of Tory minister Reverend Samuel Dana. Turning down the church's original offer, Reverend Chaplin suggested the importance of the town required a minister of greater talent what they thought he had and was thus rewarded with an increased offer. He preached until he fainted in the pulpit in July, 1825, an event that led to religious schism and his leadership of the group that seceded to form the new Union Congregationalist Church (218 Main Street, MHC #XX). Butler's field notes from 1828-29 indicate the house was in its current form and was described as old. A subsequent owner was the Reverend Lewis Holmes, third pastor of the Baptist Church (MHC# 154, 264 Main Street). Reverend Holmes was from Plymouth, Massachusetts and began his work in Groton in 1845. Joseph Rugg's name appears on the property on the 1856 map of Middlesex County and census schedules reveal him to have been born c.1795, that he worked as a farmer and boarded Charles and Charlotte Woolley when Mr. Woolley worked as a laborer. The 1875 Beers atlas indicates Charles Wooley, Jr. occupied the house by that time and was taxed for real property valued at \$1,500 as well as \$2,000 in stock in trade. Non-population Census Schedules from 1880 show he had a small parcel but owned 85 apple trees. He worked as an auctioneer and as the chief engineer for the fire department according to the 1888 resident directory and was the great grandson of Joshua Bentley who rowed Paul Revere across the Charles River on the night of April 18th, 1775 and died in the house. By 1918, the owner was Albert B. Farwell, a musician, and his wife Cora whose family continued to live here until the late 1960s.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Dr. Green, Vol. 3, p. 253; Previous GHS research; Butler, pp. 182-186, 195-6, 207, 229; Resident Directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1930 Groton map; May, "Groton Houses", p. 111; 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.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Town**  
Groton

**Property Address**

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

**Area(s)**

**Form No.**

25 School Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

25 School Street

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 Federal Style Swan House at 25 School Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. An early part of this house may have been built c. 1770 for the Revolutionary War veteran and trader Major William Swan (born in Boston, 1745) according to Dr. Green's research. Major Swan was an original trustee and treasurer of Lawrence Academy and operated a store on the property in the late 18th century. He marched from Groton to Saratoga, NY in 1777 and also served as court clerk in Groton from 1783-1789. A subsequent owner was Reverend Daniel Chaplin, elected to the ministry of the First Parish Church in 1778 after the dismissal of Tory minister Reverend Samuel Dana. He preached until he fainted in the pulpit in July, 1825, an event that led to religious schism and his leadership of the group that seceded to form the new Union Congregationalist Church (218 Main Street, MHC #XX). Butler's field notes from 1828-29 indicate the house was in its current form and was described as old. A subsequent owner was the Reverend Lewis Holmes, third pastor of the Baptist Church (MHC# 154, 264 Main Street). Reverend Holmes was from Plymouth, Massachusetts and began his work in Groton in 1845. Joseph Rugg's name appears on the property on the 1856 map of Middlesex County and census schedules reveal him to have been born c.1795, that he worked as a farmer and boarded Charles and Charlotte Woolley, parents of a future owner. The building's association with historic commercial, religious and agricultural activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the symmetrical façade, the barn that may have been built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house and barn retain integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.