

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 219 8 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 41

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

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.

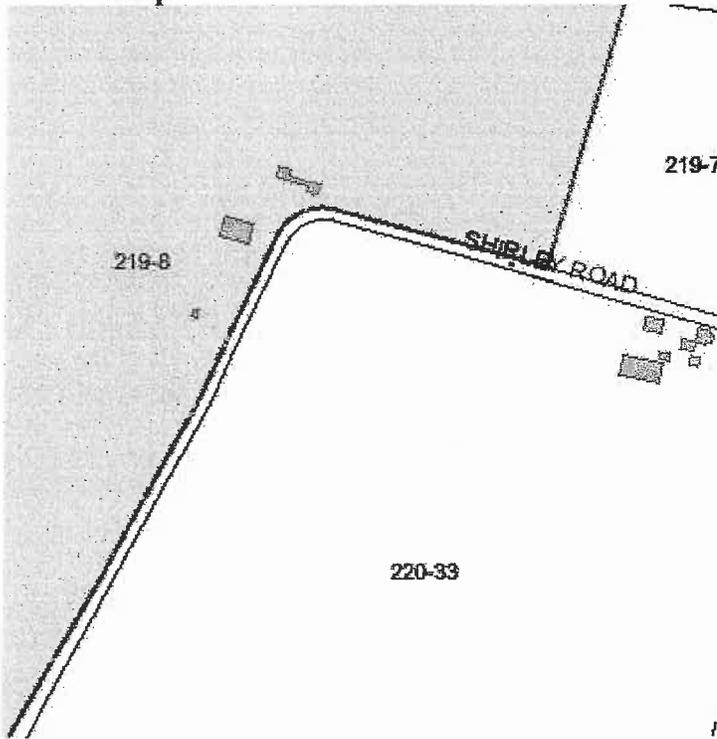
Roll Negative(s)

Address 162 Shirley Road
Historic Name Farnsworth, Maj. Amos House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential, agricultural
Date of Construction c. 1840

Source Butler's field notes, 1828-29
Style/Form Federal/ Cape Cod

Sketch Map

North Toward Top



Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Granite
219-7 Wall/Trim Vinyl clapboard
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure
Detached barn, shed

Major Alterations (with dates)
Vinyl siding

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 191

Setting Rural

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.

- * 162 Shirley Road is a 5x2-bay, 1 1/2-story, side-gabled Cape Cod house with a 1-story side-gabled addition at the west side that connects to a side-gabled, wood clapboard shed with 3 garage doors; the façade of the main block has a central enclosed hip-roofed entry porch articulated with and entablature and pilasters and sidelights flanking the door
- * Additional details include the symmetrical fenestration in the façade of the Cape Cod mass and molded cornice
- * Windows are mainly 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim although fixed 6-pane sash exist in the shed and addition
- * The main entry is through the central porch; 2 secondary entries exist in the south elevation of the shed
- * 2 brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block and a third from the roof of the addition
- * The attached shed has 3 modern roll-up garage doors, a pedestrian door and a 6/6 sash
- * A large modern gable-roofed metal detached barn is located southwest of the house
- * The house has been altered with the application of vinyl siding but retains many of its original design features; the setting is rural and the 191 acres parcel includes large open fields with post and rail, fences and views of Mount Wachusett

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 Farnsworth farm on Shirley Road was constructed shortly after the publication of Caleb Butler's 1832 map of Groton. Butler's 1828-29 field notes describe the house as an old two-story building with three windows across the façade which was replaced after the notes were made. Amos Mr. Farnsworth (1754-1847) marched on Concord and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 among other engagements according to Butler's history. He was chosen a deacon of the First Parish Church c. 1798. He was taxed in 1830 for ownership of \$2,300 in real property, an average sum for Groton. This increased to \$3,000 in 1847, the year of his death. Subsequent owners were Nathaniel Davis in 1856 who census schedules reveal to have been a yeoman born c. 1801. By 1875, the owner was Solomon Achorn who, according to tax records, owned 3 horses, 2 cows, 3 swine and 48 sheep, a larger than average flock and an orchard in 1880 of 150 trees which was typical for Groton. Charles H. Joy, a brother in law of James Lawrence of 44 Farmers Row, was the owner depicted on the 1889 Walker atlas. He was taxed in that year for ownership of \$30,000 in stocks and cash, 8 horses, \$1,500 in carriages and \$3,000 in furniture, a great deal more than most other people in Groton. Tax records also show that he owned this property as a secondary residence, probably to house his farmer or employees and he lived west of the house at 162 Shirley Road in a building valued in 1889 at the very high rate of \$10,000, which has since been demolished (this may be the site of the Danielson-Campbell House west of Joy Lane). It contained 30 rooms and was landscaped by members of the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape architecture firm. The Boston directory for 1885 lists a Charles H. Joy of Marlborough Street who was a dry goods merchant with Joy, Lincoln and Motley at 15 Chauncy Street. Local historians recall this was the home of the stable master of the estate of Groton Hunt Club founders Richard E. and Barbara Danielson and that many fox hunts began here during the period 1922-1964. Shirley Road formerly ran diagonally across the meadow and was later realigned to its current angular right of way in order to accommodate the resident of 162 Shirley Road.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler, p. 193, 268; Pamphlet, "The Groton Hunt 1922-1964"; May, "Groton Plantation", p. 46; Richardson, "The Community", pp. 4, 8, 14; Tax records, 1830-1889; 1832 and 1847 Butler maps and field notes; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; Resident directories, 1888, 1918, 1929; Smith, Faith. "Farmers Row in Groton, Massachusetts: The Olmsted Firm's Influence on a Neighborhood from 1884-1894". Unpublished MS, 1999; 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.

162 Shirley Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Groton
Property Address
162 Shirley Road

Area(s)

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 Cape Cod house at 162 Shirley Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Amos Farnsworth farm on Shirley Road was constructed shortly after the publication of Caleb Butler's 1832 map of Groton. Butler's 1828-29 field notes describe the house owned by Luke and Amos Farnsworth as an old two-story building with three windows across the façade which was probably replaced after the notes were made. Mr. Farnsworth (1754-1847) marched on Concord and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 among other engagements according to Butler's history. He was chosen a deacon of the First Parish Church c. 1798. Mr. Farnsworth was taxed in 1830 for ownership of \$2,300 in real property, an average sum for Groton. This increased to \$3,000 in 1847, the year of his death. Subsequent owners were Nathaniel Davis in 1856 who census schedules reveal to have been a yeoman born c. 1801. By 1875, the owner was Solomon Achorn who, according to tax records, owned 3 horses, 2 cows, 3 swine and 48 sheep, a larger than average flock. Charles Henry Joy, a brother in law of James Lawrence of 44 Farmers Row, was the owner depicted on the 1889 Walker atlas. He was taxed in that year for ownership of \$30,000 in stocks and cash, 8 horses, \$1,500 in carriages and \$3,000 in furniture, a great deal more than most other people in Groton. Tax records also show that he owned this property as a secondary residence, probably to house his farmer or employees and he lived west of the house at 162 Shirley Road in a building, valued in 1889 at the very high rate of \$10,000, which has since been demolished. The building's association with historic agricultural activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The design of the symmetrical façade, 19th century additions in the style of an expanded New England farmhouse and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.