

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 101 17 USGS Quad W Area(s) Form Number 126

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village) West Groton

Photograph

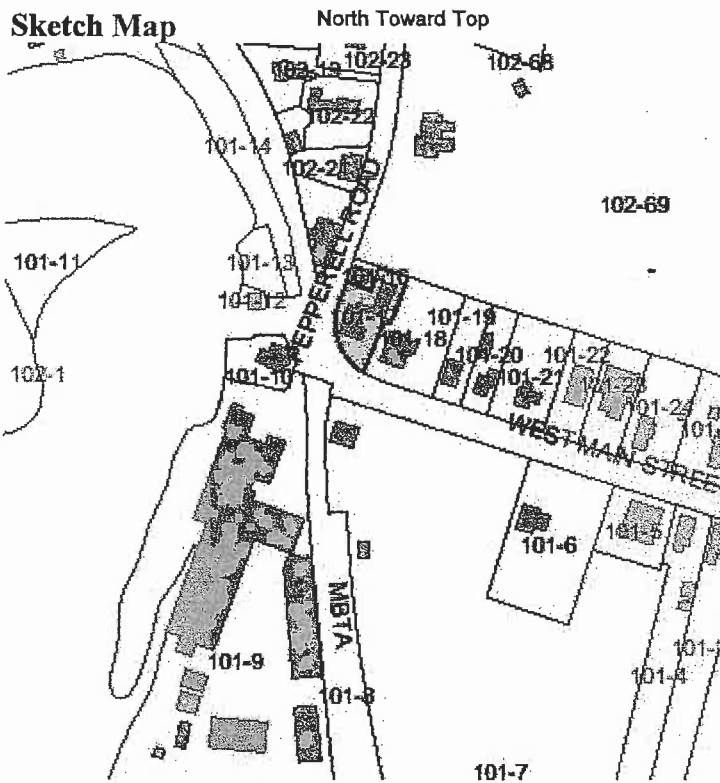
(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Address 13 West Main Street
Historic Name Rockwood-Sampson House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1840

Roll Negative(s)

Source Butler's field notes from 1828-29
Style/Form Federal

Sketch Map



Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Granite
Wall/Trim Wood clapboard
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure Detached carriage shed

Major Alterations (with dates)
Rear additions, dates unknown

Condition Good
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1
Setting Rural village

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 Rockwood-Sampson House is a 2 1/2-story, 5x2-bay form with a combination of hipped and side gable roof forms that form an L-shaped plan, Federal and Victorian Eclectic style details
- * Decorative features are the symmetrical fenestration in the façade and the Victorian entry hood with carved brackets; the west side wall has a surround with classical trim and cornice;
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim; a 3-sided bay window occupies the west side of the first story of the facade
- * Three brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge
- * The center entry is a double leaf door, each with a diamond shaped window
- * The small parcel is grown up in plantings that conceal the house from the road and adjacent intersection of Pepperell and Townsend Roads and West Main Street
- * It is in good condition and occupies a central location in the village
- * A detached carriage shed occupies the north end of the driveway and is accessed by a rolling vehicle door; A mow door and 6/6 sash fill additional openings in the primary elevation

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 Sewall Rockwood-E. H. Sampson House was built after 1832 according to Butler's map and 1828-29 field notes which indicate no house on this parcel, although Sewall did live a short distance north on Pepperell Road in 1832. Sewall Rockwood was the son of Samuel Rockwood Sr., a deacon of the First Parish Church, town clerk from 1799-1803, an original subscriber and trustee of the Groton Academy (later Lawrence Academy) and operator of the clothing mill. The house is labeled the S. Rockwood house on the 1847 Butler map, as is the house of his brother, Samuel Jr., owner of 18 Pepperell Road (MHC #127). Non-population Census Schedules from 1850 show he had 99 acres, one horse and 2 cows. By 1855, Harrison J. Hartwell owned the property and was listed in census records as a papermaker at one of the area's paper mills. E. H. Sampson was the owner from c. 1875-1889 and is depicted as such on the atlases from those years. Mr. Sampson's company operated a saw mill from c. 1880-1940 making boxes and reels at the site on Cannery Row off Townsend Road now in use as the Carvers' Guild. He also ran the first leatherboard factory on the current site of the River Court retirement residences at 6 West Main Street (MHC #s182-188). In the 1875 State Census of Manufactures and Occupations, the manufacture of leatherboard and paper dominated the industrial output of the town. After the loss of the factory by fire in 1914, it was rebuilt and changed ownership. The house was owned by the Groton Leatherboard Company in 1930 and occupied either as offices or a residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Butler, ; May, "Groton Plantation", p. 46; 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; 1875 census non-population schedules for manufacturing; Whipple, p. 397; 1930 map of Groton; 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

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Town
Groton

Property Address

Area(s)

Form No.

13 West Main Street



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Groton

Property Address

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
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Area(s)

Form No.

13 West Main Street



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton
Property Address
13 West Main Street

Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) W

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 13 West Main Street is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The Sewall Rockwood-E. H. Sampson House was built after 1832 according to Butler's map and 1828-29 field notes which indicate no house on this parcel, although Sewall did live a short distance north on Pepperell Road in 1832. Sewall Rockwood was the son of Samuel Rockwood Sr., a deacon of the First Parish Church, town clerk from 1799-1803, an original subscriber and trustee of the Groton Academy (later Lawrence Academy) and operator of the clothing mill. The house is labeled the S. Rockwood house on the 1847 Butler map, as is the house of his brother, Samuel Jr., owner of 18 Pepperell Road (MHC #127). By 1855, Harrison J. Hartwell owned the property and was listed in census records as a papermaker at one of the area's paper mills. E. H. Sampson was the owner from c. 1875-1889 and is depicted as such on the atlases from those years. Mr. Sampson operated a saw mill from c. 1880-1940 making boxes and reels at the site on Cannery Row off Townsend Road now in use as the Carvers' Guild. The building's association with historic industrial activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The refined design of the symmetrical façade and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.