

FORM B - Building

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

Map and Lot # 112 58 USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 98

Town Groton
Place (neighborhood or village)

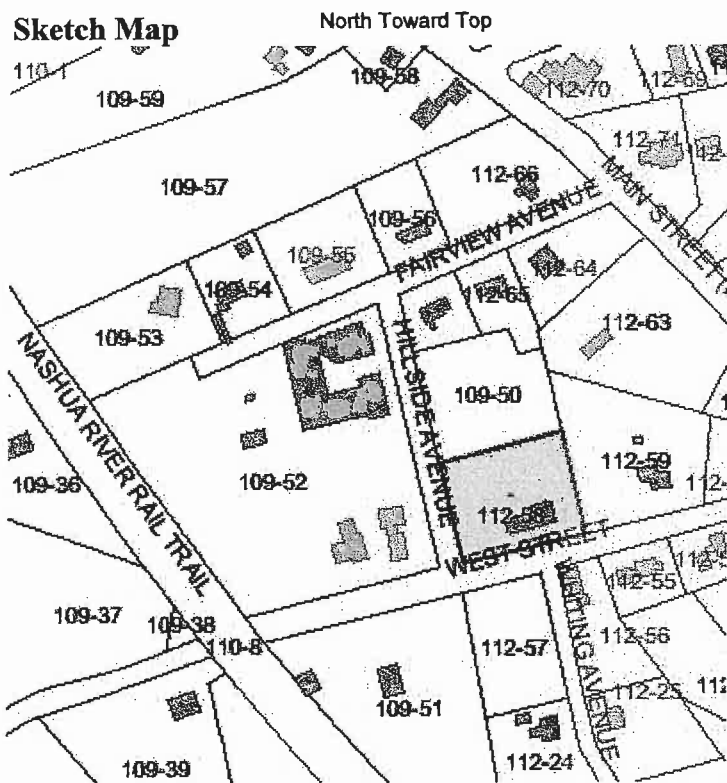
Photograph

(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 32 West Street
Historic Name McGrath House
Uses: Present Residential
Original Residential
Date of Construction c. 1770
Source Previous GHS research
Style/Form Cape Cod

Sketch Map



Architect/Builder
Exterior Material:
Foundation Granite; concrete
Wall/Trim Wood clapboard
Roof Asphalt shingle
Outbuildings/secondary structure Attached 19th c. barn
Major Alterations (with dates) Shingles added, c. 1950, picture window, c. 1960

Recorded by Sanford Johnson
Organization Groton Historical Commission
Date (month/year) 6/06

Condition Good
Moved no yes Date
Acreage 1
Setting Residential

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 Cape Cod house at 32 West Street has a 5-bay façade with center entry and two gabled dormers on the front slope of the roof; the rear slope has been raised with a full-width shed dormer
- * Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain trim and awnings covering the openings in the dormers; a multiple pane fixed sash picture window lights the interior of the shed
- * The center entry is covered by an arbor; a secondary entry exists in the shed and is a plank door with plain trim
- * Decorative features are the symmetrical fenestration in the façade of the main block, corner boards and frieze across the top of the facade
- * The 19th century gable front barn is clad in wood clapboard and attached to the house by a short 1-story shed with gable roof parallel to the main block; access to the barn interior is through a rolling vehicle door with a row of transom lights above; other openings in the barn façade are the mow door in the gable peak, a pedestrian door converted to firewood storage space in the east side and 2 fixed 6-pane barn sash flanking the vehicle door; all openings have plain flat trim; decorative features are the gable returns and corner boards
- * The house is in good condition and is one of several houses on side streets around Groton Center with an attached barn

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 McGrath House may have been built in the late 18th century according to previous research. The first known owner was Isaac Hazen according to the 1832 Butler map. From c. 1847 - c. 1890, the occupant was George Richardson who was taxed in 1847 for ownership of a house and land valued at \$600, a small amount for Groton but appropriate for the size of the house. Mr. Richardson was a farmer born c. 1815 according to 1865 census schedules and to the 1888 resident directory. His wife's name was Sarah and they had two children. The resident directory of 1888 and the atlas of 1889 confirm that Mr. Richardson continued farming at this location until at least that time and he had nearly doubled the value of his property, possibly by building the barn which does not appear on the 1875 atlas. By 1930, the owners were Charlotte and James McGrath who worked as a laborer according to the resident directory of 1929. Accordign o Dr. Green, West Street was historically known as Fagot Lane for the ever-present pile of sticks used to feed the ovens at a bakery nearby. Caleb Butler names it "The Road by the Pool" in notes for his 1832 map, although nothing nearby suggests itself as the road's namesake.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Previous GHS research; Butler maps from 1832, 1847; Walling map of 1856; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1888, 1929 resident directories; Green, Vol. 4, p. 208; Sawyer, "More People and Places", p. 127; SAG Vol. 4, p. 208;

**** 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.

32 West Street

