

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * 127 Whitman Road is a Cape Cod form, side-gabled, 1 1/2-story, 5x2-bay house with a long 1-story addition at the east side that includes a gabled mass oriented parallel to the main house, a wood clapboard shed attached to the addition and a pergola or covered walkway sheilding the shed from the road; a full-width shed dormer elevates the rear slope of the roof
- * Decorative features are the symmetrical fenestration in the façade, the molded cornice, stout center brick chimney and classical trim at the center entry that includes wide simple trim boards and 1/2-length sidelights
- * Windows are 9/9 double-hung sash
- * The well-maintained house is similar to the Cape Cod house at 128 North Street and could reveal more information after an interior examination

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 house at 127 Whitman Road may have been built as early as 1704 according to reports from previous owners of such a date carved on a beam over a door. The first known owner of the house was Nehemiah Whitman whose name appears at this location on the 1832 Butler map and gives title to the road by that name. He was taxed in 1830 for ownership of real property worth \$1,950, a relatively high amount for a house of this size. The house is described in Butler's field notes as it currently exists and was painted red. Nehemiah Whitman's relative S. Whitman was the owner from c. 1847 - c. 1856. This is Sally Whitman who, according to census records, was born c. 1779 and boarded Timothy Cummings, a joiner, and Almira Simmons, a 17 year-old in 1855. Ms. Whitman's property was valued at \$3,000 in 1847 and she had \$1,350 in stocks which demonstrates some level of prosperity. A subsequent owner was Parker Fletcher whose name appears connected with the house on atlases from 1875 and 1889. The 1889 atlas shows that he also owned the c. 1676 garrison house formerly standing at the corner of Whitman Road and Lovers Lane (the former Groton Country Club, MHC #159, now demolished and replaced with a modern building) as well as the house at 14 Main Street (MHC #20). The 1888 resident directory gives Mr. Fletcher's address as the corner of Main Street and Great Road suggesting he occupied this latter dwelling and either rented out or housed his employees at 127 Whitman Road which tax records from 1889 refer to as an "old house and barn" and at the former Sanderson House (so called in 1889 tax records) on Lovers Lane. Dr. Green notes that he sold ice, probably harvested from Cadys Pond, on a door to door basis, mostly in Groton. The Library of Congress has film footage taken by Thomas Edison in 1902 purporting to show ice harvesting and loading in Groton, MA. Any potential employees of Mr. Fletcher may have worked as ice cutters or at caring for his 5 horses, 16 cows and a bull which is an above average size herd. The property was in use as pasture in 1939 according to the WPA map from that year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

1832 and 1847 Butler Maps; 1856 Walling map; 1875 Beers atlas; 1889 Walker atlas; 1939 WPA map; Previous GHS research; Tax records, 1830-1889; Green, Vol. 4, p. 237-238; Library of Congress, American Memory Collection, DIGITAL ID: awal 1555 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/awal.1555>, awal 0338 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/awal.0338>, awal 1692 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/awal.1692>

**** 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.

127 Whitman Road



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community Groton

Property Address

127 Whitman Road

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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

Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria considerations: A B C D E F G

The Cape Cod house at 127 Whitman Road is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource at the local level. The house may have been built as early as 1704 according to reports from previous owners of such a date carved on a beam over a door. The first known owner of the house was Nehemiah Whitman whose name appears at this location on the 1832 Butler map and gives title to the road by that name. He was taxed in 1830 for ownership of real property worth \$1,950, a relatively high amount for a house of this size. The house is described in Butler's field notes as it currently exists and was painted red. Nehemiah Whitman's relative S. Whitman was the owner from c. 1847 - c. 1856. This is Sally Whitman who, according to census records, was born c. 1779 and boarded Timothy Cummings, a joiner, and Almira Simmons, a 17 year-old in 1855. A subsequent owner was Parker Fletcher whose name appears connected with the house on atlases from 1875 and 1889. The 1888 resident directory gives Mr. Fletcher's address as the corner of Main Street and Great Road suggesting he occupied this latter dwelling and either rented out or housed his employees at 127 Whitman Road which tax records from 1889 refer to as an "old house and barn" and at the former Sanderson House (so called in 1889 tax records) on Lovers Lane. Dr. Green notes that he sold ice, probably harvested from Cadys Pond, on a door to door basis, mostly in Groton. The building's association with historic agricultural and commercial activity establishes its significance under Criterion A. The Cape Cod design and the surviving historic exterior materials make the property eligible under Criterion C. The house retains integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship.