

PH0365971

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 24 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

The Groton Inn

AND/OR COMMON

The Inn at Groton

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street (Route 119)

CITY, TOWN

Groton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

☒ COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert and Priscilla Frazer

STREET & NUMBER

The Inn at Groton, Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Groton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01450

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge,

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1967

FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☒ ALTERED

☐ MOVED DATE _____

☒ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Groton Inn is located in the town center of Groton. Set back about 60 feet from Main Street, the Inn sits atop a gentle slope shaded by large elm trees. It is flanked on the east by a landscaped parking lot and the grounds of Lawrence Academy and on the southwest by residences. The Groton Inn is the focal point of the town's local historic district which was established in 1965.

Although the Inn is composed of three major parts dating from the mid-eighteenth century to 1840, it nevertheless presents the impression of a harmonious whole. The two-story, white clapboard building has a ridge roof with brick chimneys painted white with black tops. The facade (southwest) facing Main Street is ten bays wide and has a one-story porch (1840) extending the width of the facade. There are two doors, each flanked by paired windows. The black shuttered windows have six-over-six lights, and the six dormers in the roof above have eight-over-twelve lights.

The southeast side of the Inn reveals more clearly the additions which have contributed to the formation of the building. On the gable end of the Main Street section is a one-story enclosed porch (1930, known as the Dodge Porch) with a flat roof and windows with fifteen lights arranged in groups of four. Extending perpendicularly is a long ell to which is appended a four-bay ell with a one-story shed roof section. Another rear addition (20th century) runs parallel to the Main Street facade.

The first part of the Groton Inn was probably built in 1723 (but possibly as early as 1706 or as late as 1748) in the form of a half-house constructed by Samuel Parker. The house was enlarged by Reverend Samuel Dana in 1761, and the wainscoting in the present lobby dates from this period as does the hand-printed French wallpaper recently uncovered in an upstairs room.

A second building was joined to the back (east side) of the Dana House in the 1790's and is probably the town's third meeting house which was erected in 1714. Architectural evidence of this origin is found in the remains of the high pulpit and in the irregular fenestration along the sides of the building, reflecting the custom of the pew-owners' installation of their own ventilation.

A third building was added onto the north side of the Dana House in 1840. This structure may have been the Richardson Tavern which was built in 1678 and originally served as a dwelling and garrison house. Evidence pointing to the seventeenth century origins can be found in the vaulted inn ballroom ceiling and structural details in the attic. The "rocking porch" and the former windows on the Main Street facade were also added during the 1840 renovation. The porch columns are made of mahogany and may have been salvaged from the gallery of the First Parish Church (1754) which was damaged by fire in that year.

Also on the grounds of the Groton Inn are three outbuildings: a barn, an annex, and a brick garage (1914).

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) : inn
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Groton Inn is significant for its long history as an inn and as a prominent architectural element in the center of Groton. Architecturally, the building is of particular interest because it is composed of three of the town's historic structures.

The original owner of the land on which the Inn stands was the Reverend Samuel Willard, proprietor and first minister of Groton. It was here that Samuel Parker first built his small house, which was later enlarged in 1761 for the use of Reverend Samuel Dana. A minister of loyalist sentiments, Dana was forced out of his ministry in 1775.

On the east side of the Dana House was added what was probably the town's third meeting house, erected in 1714, on the site of the First Parish Church and moved in 1754 when the church was built.

In 1840 a third building was joined onto the north side of the Dana House. This building is said to have been the Richardson Tavern, which was originally constructed in 1678 on the site of the present Baptist Church as the residence of Reverend Gershom Hobart. The Hobart House was built by Indians and it served as a garrison house during King William's War (1689-1697).

Use of the building as an inn began around 1780 under the ownership of Captain Jonathan Keep, when it was known as Cap'n Keep's Tavernstand. In 1798 the inn was under the management of Isaiah and Joseph Hall, and from 1825 to 1840 the establishment was run by the Hoar family and known as Mr. Hoar's Hotel. It was then acquired by Daniel Hunt who ran Mr. Hunt's Hotel until 1852, with a brief hiatus when it was operated as a temperance house by Thomas Treadwell Farnsworth. J. Nelson Hoar, and later his three daughters, managed the place from 1854 until the turn of the century. The daughters changed the name from The Hoar House to Central House, and one can see why. In the present century the Groton Inn has had nine additional owners and has continued to operate as an inn except for two relatively brief periods when it was a private guest house and subsequently stood vacant for a short time. The name "Groton Inn" dates from the turn of the century.

The list of historic persons who left their names on the Inn's register is very long and includes Longfellow, President Ulysses S. Grant, Luther Burbank, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ward Beecher, Julia Ward Howe, President Grover Cleveland, and Alice and Eleanor Roosevelt. William Howard Taft stayed at the Inn on Election Night, 1908, when he defeated William Jennings Bryan.

continued

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Caleb. History of the Town of Groton. Boston, Press of T.R. Marvin, 1848.
Green, Samuel A. Groton Historical Series. Town of Groton, 1887-99. 4 volumes.
Green, Samuel A., ed. Early Records of Groton, Massachusetts, 1662-1707. Groton, 1880.
May, Virginia A., diarist. Groton Town Diary, Volume XIV, 1968. Unpublished.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.32 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 289300 4720140
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Georgess McHarque and Anthony Hars,
ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

May 13, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE May 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

W. M. [Signature]

DATE 8/3/26

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE 8.2.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 24 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

#8:

In addition to its long-time function as an inn, the Groton Inn has also been used simultaneously for other purposes. From 1797 to 1847 it was the meeting place of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge, whose installation ceremonies were performed by Grand Master Paul Revere. Masons have acknowledged it as the nation's oldest Masonic meeting place. The Groton Inn was also an important stagecoach stop in its location at the convergence of routes to Boston, Fitchburg, and Lowell, Massachusetts; Keene and Nashua, New Hampshire; and Burlington, Vermont. It was also part of the Underground Railway, and an underground tunnel formerly led to one of its outbuildings from the Waters House on the grounds of Lawrence Academy. At various times it was the site of selectmen's meetings, sessions of the probate court and in 1846 of the locally famous "Railroad Meeting" which brought about the separation of Groton Junction (now the town of Ayer) from Groton proper in preparation for the arrival of the new railroad.



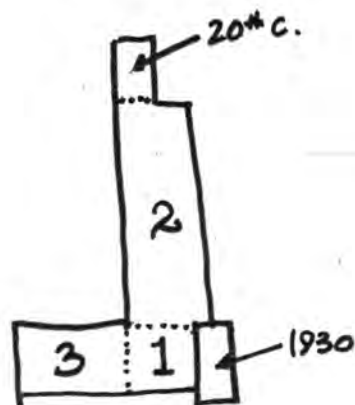
BARN



GARAGE



THE
ANNEX



GROTON INN

MAIN STREET

1. 1723

2. 1790 (3RD MEETINGHOUSE 1714)

3. 1840 (RICHARDSON TAVERN 1678)

NPS Number _____

Title: Graton Island

Middlesex Co. Mass.

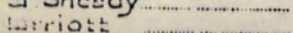
LOC. _____

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(Scale of this plan: 1 inch = 60 feet.)

(Original on file)

(Scale of this plan: 1 inch = 60 feet.)





Property

The Graton Inn

State

Mass.

Working Number

5.24.76.3458

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos

6

Maps

1, Sketch

CONTROL

OK pl 5.25.76

HISTORIAN

*OK Historically once the specifics of the individual buildings
sections are clarified*

call, then accept

P. Grosvenor

6/9/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
Soldheim
7/9/76*

*Call
Soldheim
5/27/76*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
7/30/76*

KEEPER

*Hung
F.2.76*

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered **AUG 3 1976**

Federal Register Entry

9-7-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



The Groton Inn
Groton, MA
Thomas Sartini, photographer
1976
Mill Street, Groton, MA 01450
Looking north at facade.

Photograph #1 of 6

MAY 24 1976

Gudaleen Co.

AUG 3 1976

The Groton Inn
main front

1.



FEB 76

The Groton Inn

Groton, MA

Georgess McHargue, photographer
1976

26 Hollis Street, Groton, MA 01450

Looking northwest at the "Dodge Porch"

Photograph #2 46

MAY 24 1976

Middlesex Co.

AUG 3 1976



FEB 76

The Groton Inn

Groton, MA

Georgess McHargue, photographer
1976

26 Hollis Street, Groton, MA 01450

Looking north and side elevation.

Photograph #3 of 6

MAY 24 1976

AUG 3 1976

Middlesex Co.



FEB 76

The Groton Inn

Groton, MA

Georgess McHargue, photographer
1976

26 Hollis Street, Groton, MA 01450
Garage. Building #1 on sketch map.

Photograph #4

Medaleant Co.

MAY 24 1976

AUG 3 1976



FEB 76

The Groton Inn

Groton, MA

Georgess McHargue, photographer
1976

26 Hollis Street, Groton, MA 01450

The Annex. Outbuilding #2 on sketch map.

Photograph #5

MAY 24 1976

AUG 3 1976

Middlesex Co.



FEB 76

The Groton Inn

Groton, MA

Georgess McHargue, photographer
1976

26 Hollis Street, Groton, MA 01450
Barn. Outbuilding #3 on sketch map.

Photograph #6 of 6

MAY 24 1976

AUG 3 1976

Middlesex Co.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

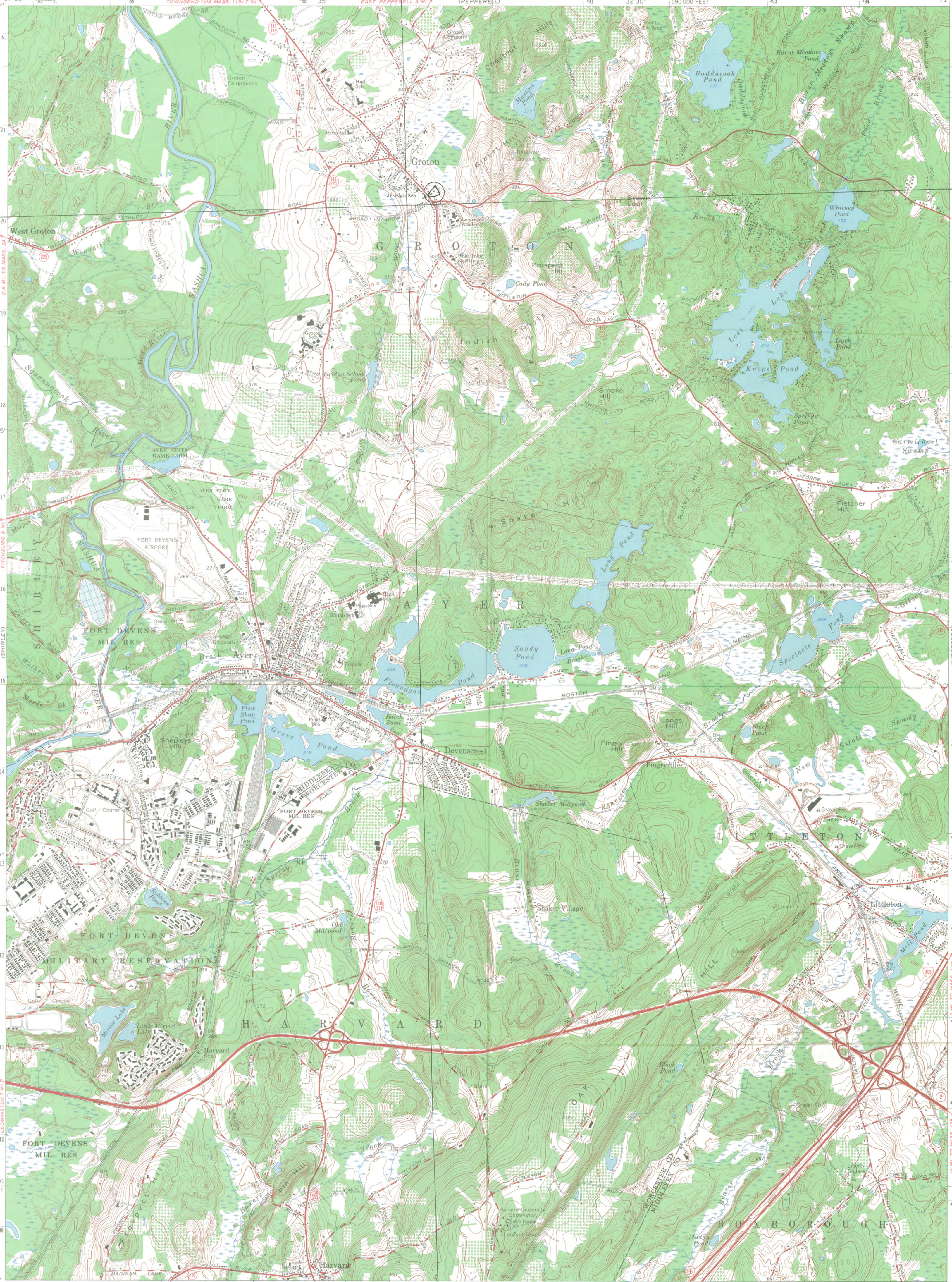
AYER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GROTON, MASS.:

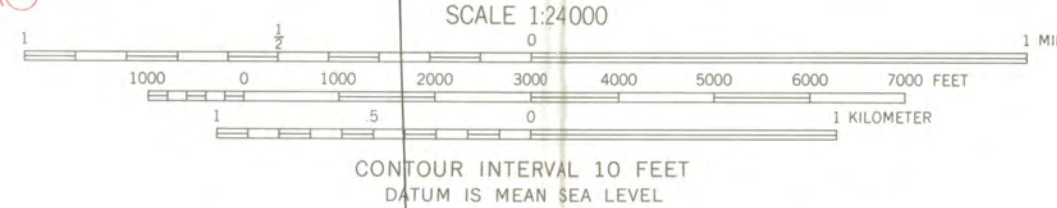
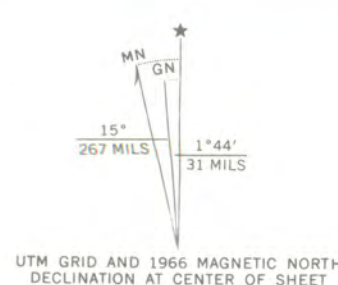
The Groton Inn

UTM Reference:

19/289300/4720140



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1923 and 1935. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ Interstate Route ○ State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AYER, MASS.
N4230—W7130/7.5

1966

AMS 6669 II SE—SERIES V814



PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

May 17, 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
National Register
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Groton, The Groton Inn
2. Lancaster, Nathaniel Thayer Estate
3. Manchester, The New Hampshire

These properties have been reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

The Groton Inn property is endangered so we request that you expedite its consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director

PLW/mw
Enclosures

DATE

6/14/76

TIME OF CALL

11:30

AM
PM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Pat Weslowski

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Massachusetts Historical Commission

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Groton Inn

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Sketch map showing dates of individual sections of inn forthcoming. Also info on alterations other than porch and wing, if there have been any.

7/2/76 - the state office is waiting for the map from Groton.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Beth Grosvenor

TITLE

OFFICE

To: Marguerite Mott

FOLLOW-UP SLIP

Date 7/1/76

Mass. SHPO has requested that we expedite nomination for the Groton Inn, Groton, Middlesex County, Mass. Congressman Paul Tsongas wants it expedited.

NOT TO BE FILED

Signature RBR



*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

6 July 1976

Ms. Bess Grosvenor
National Register of Historic Places
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Grosvenor:

I have enclosed the sketch map that you requested that shows the three sections of the Groton Inn, Groton, MA. I hope that this will answer any questions that you may have concerning this nominations. If I can be of any further assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Orfant
National Register Editor
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enc.
/jro

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered AUG 3 1976

Name

Location

Groton Inn

**Groton
Middlesex County**

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 8/4/76

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER
SENTINEL &
ENTERPRISE
FITCHBURG, MA.
D. 24,340

AUG 17 1976

New
England
Newsclip

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Register Of Historic Places Cracked By 'The Groton Inn'

GROTON — The Groton Inn on Main Street has been recently accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, according to state Secretary Paul Gizzi, chairman of the commission, who was so notified by Gray Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

It is significant for its long history as an inn and as a prominent architectural element in the center of Groton. Architecturally, the building is of particular interest because it is composed of three of the town's historic structures.

The original owner of the land on which the inn stands was the Rev. Samuel Willard, proprietor and first minister of Groton. It was here that Samuel Parker first built his small house, which was later enlarged in 1761 for the use of Rev. Samuel Dana. A minister of loyalist sentiments, Dana was forced out of his ministry in 1775.

On the east side of the Dana House was added what was probably the town's third meetinghouse, erected in 1714, on the site of the First Parish Church and moved in 1754 when the church was built.

Built By Indians

In 1640, a third building was joined onto the north side of the Dana House. This building is said to have been the Richardson Tavern, which was originally constructed in 1678 on the site of the present Baptist Church as the residence of the Rev. Gershom Hobart. The Hobart House was built by Indians and it served as a garrison house during King William's War (1689-1697).

Use of the building as an inn began about 1780 under the ownership of Capt. Jonathan Keep, when it became known as "Cap'n. Keep's Tavernstand." In 1798, the inn was under the management of Isaiah and Joseph Hall, and from 1825 to 1840 the establishment was operated by the Hoar Family and was known as Mr. Hoar's Hotel.

It was then acquired by Daniel Hunt who ran Mr. Hunt's Hotel until 1852, with a brief hiatus when it was run as a temperance house by Thomas Treadwell Farnsworth. J. Nelson Hoar, and later his three daughters, managed the place from 1854 until the turn of the century.

The daughters changed the name from the Hoar House to Central House.

In the present century, the Groton Inn has had nine additional owners and has continued to operate as an inn except for two relatively brief periods when it was a private guest house and subsequently stood vacant for a short time. The name "Groton Inn" dates from the turn of the century.

Famous Guests

The list of notables who left their names on the inn's register is very lengthy and includes some of the best known figures in American history — Longfellow, President Grant, Luther Burbank, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ward Beecher, Julia Ward Howe, President Cleveland, Alice and Eleanor Roosevelt, William Howard Taft stayed at the inn on election night, 1908, when he defeated William Jennings Bryan.

In addition to its long-time

function as an inn, the Groton Inn has also been used simultaneously for other purposes. From 1797 to 1847 it was the meeting place of St. Paul's Masonic Lodge, whose installation ceremonies were performed by Grand Master Paul Revere. Masons claim it is the oldest Masonic meeting place in the country.

The Groton Inn was also an important stage coach stop in its location at the convergence of routes to Boston, Fitchburg and Lowell; Keene and Nashua, N.H., and Burlington, Vt.

It was also a part of the "underground railway" and an underground tunnel formerly led to one of the outbuildings from the Waters House on the grounds of Lawrence Academy.

At various times it was the site of selectmen's meetings, sessions of the Probate Court, and, in 1846 of the locally famous "railroad meeting" which brought about the separation of Groton Junction (now the town of Ayer) from Groton proper in preparation for the arrival of the new railroad.

SUN
LOWELL, MA.
D. 55,300

AUG 18 1976

New
England
Newspaper

Groton Inn placed on national register

GROTON — While the Groton Board of Health is seeking the state's approval for a kitchen and dining room for the Groton Inn, the Main Street establishment has been accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination was made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The announcement came from the office of Secretary of the State Paul Guzzi and also indicated that the nomination becomes significant for its long history as an Inn and "as a prominent architectural element in the center of Groton."

Meanwhile, the board of health, acting as a member of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, has forwarded a copy of the kitchen plan to the state Department of Public Health's regional office.

According to the plan, the Inn's kitchen will be remodeled, suitable grease traps will be installed and the septic system will be equipped to handle 3,900 gallons of waste per day.

MR. AND Mrs. Stuart Bowen are the new owners of the Inn despite the absence of an official announcement of its sale from either the Bowens or Monument Federal Savings and Loan Association, the former owner's mortgagee.

The Bowens have hired a civil engineering firm, Charles A. Perkins Co. of Clinton, to plan a new kitchen at the 298-year-old Inn. In a letter on file with the board of health, the engineers determined: "that kitchen waste may be accepted into the (septic) system so long as the total flowage into the system does not exceed that shown on the plans approved by the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering and so long as a fully designed grease trap is installed on the building sewer from the kitchen area."

The grease trap, the engineers explain, would lower the temperature of kitchen waste "to allow any grease to come out of emulsion and float to the surface."

THE GROTON Board of Health forwarded the plans to the regional office of the Department of Public Health because the local board's "amateurs feel that approval from your office (the state) of the kitchen-dining room-tavern is in order at this time. This will necessitate the lifting of the no dining room restriction on the plans and in your letter of 20 September 1974."

The Bowens, a Winchester couple, plan to keep the Groton Inn and (1) have guest rooms, a dining room and a tavern, (2) have a kitchen, (3) have a bathroom, (4) have a

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

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The Bowens, a Winchester couple, plan to keep the Groton Inn and (1) have guest rooms, a dining room and a tavern, (2) complete a new kitchen, (3) conduct it as a family operation with Stuart Bowen, Lenore Bowen, their two children and Mrs. Bowen's mother, (4) cook food on the premises, (5) install a septic system not to exceed 4,000 gallons per day, (6) reduce the space for guests from 30 to 14, (7) live on the premises, presumably in the separate family dwelling at the rear of the property, (8) reduce the tavern seating from 75 to 57, and (9) reduce the dining room capacity from previous estimates of 200 to 40, according to the board of health.

The original owner of the land on which the Inn stands was the Rev. Samuel Willard, proprietor and first minister of Groton. It was here that Samuel Parker first built his small house, which was later enlarged in 1761 for the use of Rev. Samuel Dana. A minister of loyalist sentiments, Dana was forced out of his ministry in 1775.

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NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/19/76
Reviewer INITIALS: So

NR DOE AUG 3 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *Groton Inn*

OTHER NAMES: *The Inn at Groton*

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER *Main Street (Rte 119)*

CITY/TOWN *Groton*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *5th*

STATE *MA*

VICINITY OF

025

COUNTY

code

Middlesex 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
☐ Substantially intact-1	☐ Substantially intact-2	☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4	☐ unknown - 5	☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7	☐ not applicable - 8	☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED
☐ Unexcavated

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED
☐ Reconstructed
☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED
☐ Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *Inn Hotel; Lodge Hall; meeting place; stagecoach station*

now- *Hotel*

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	☐ entertainment
☐ ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LAW/Gov't/politics	☐ SCIENCE	☐ health
☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	☐ recreation
☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MILITARY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	☐ settlement
☐ ART	☐ EXPLORATION	☐ MUSIC	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	☒ socio/cultural
☐ COMMERCE	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ PHILOSOPHY		☐ urban & commun
☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INVENTION	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		☐ planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Colonial elements

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

1) H.W. Longfellow, U.S. Grant, Luther Burbank, Andrew Carnegie,
Henry Ward Beecher, Julia Ward Howe, Grover Cleveland, Alice
and Eleanor Roosevelt, William Howard Taft - guests listed
in inn's register.
2) Paul Revere - grand master of masonic lodge which met here
from 1797-1847

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1723, ~~1761~~, ~~1790-99~~

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1761
1790-99 addition 1793 porch
of possible 1714 structure 1840 addition
built possibly
1678

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

8.3

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame, clapboarding; 1--2 1/2 stories, modified L shape,
gabled ^{flat} shed roof sections, interior and exterior
and chimneys, gabled dormers, front full-width 1-story
shed porch, ^{front} entrances, composed of 1723 structure
(possibly earlier or later construction date), 1790's addition of possible
1714 structure, and ~~1790~~ 1840 addition of possible 1678 bldg.,
barn, annex, and 1914 brick garage.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Allegedly composed of 3 of Boston's historic structures, the Boston
Inn is acknowledged as the nation's oldest Masonic meeting place,
a part of the Underground Railway, and has lodged many
famous persons including William Howard Taft who
stayed at the Inn on Election night, 1908, when he defeated
William Jennings Bryan.

36

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

52

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Groton Inn		2 OTHER NAMES: The Inn at Groton		3 date of entry: 8-3-76		4 county code: 017	
5 LOCATION street & number Main St.		city / town Groton		vicinity of MA		county Middlesex	
6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic		7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 5		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME		15 ACREAGE 8.32		16 if state who prepared form? ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
18 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☒ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated		17 features: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONMENTAL ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9		19 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		20 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO	
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☒ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☒ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☒ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25		☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)		22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☒ oldest Masonic meeting place in nation 'only' ☐	
23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: HOTEL, MEETING SITE CURRENTLY: HOTEL		24 dates of initial construction: 1678, 1714, 1723 major alterations: 1761, 1790's, 1840 historic events: Late 17th -- early 18th C		25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION			
26 architectural style(s):		27 architect:		28 master builder:		29 engineer:	

Frame, clapboarding; 1--2 1/2 stories, modified L shape; gabled, flat, and shed roof sections; interior and exterior end chimneys, gabled dormers, front full-width 1-story shed porch, 2 front entrances; original 1723 inn incorporates 2 earlier structures (c. 1678, c. 1714); barn, annex, and brick garage. Operated as inn since 18th C.; prominent guests included William Howard Taft; acknowledged as nation's oldest Masonic meetingplace; probable stop on Underground Railroad; scene of local activities, including 1846 "Railroad Meeting" that led to separation of Groton Junction (Ayer) from Groton.

presidential candidate
r Cleveland, William Howard Taft,
ess magnates Luther Burbank and

ion ceremonies at the Inn.

) from Groton

three of Groton's early (17th-18th C.)

ate 18th C. housing such important
ness magnates Luther Burbank and
abolitionists' underground

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

36

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Groton Inn

2 OTHER NAMES: The Inn at Groton

3 date of entry: 8-3-76

4 county code: 017

5 LOCATION street & number: Main St. city / town: Groton vicinity of: state: MA county: Middlesex

6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic

7 OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)

8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL

10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO

11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 5

12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME: ☐ NO

15 ACCESSION: ☒ YES ☐ NO

16 CONDITION: ☐ excellent ☐ good ☒ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☒ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☒ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown

17 features: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: ☒ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown

19 ADAPTIVE USE: ☐ YES ☒ NO

20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☒ NO

21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ☒ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☒ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY):

23 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☒ oldest Masonic meeting place in nation 'only' ☐

24 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: HOTEL, MEETING SITE CURRENTLY: HOTEL

25 dates of initial construction: 1678, 1714, 1723 major alterations: 1761, 1790's, 1840 historic events: late 17th - early 18th C.

26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION:

27 architectural style(s):

28 architect:

29 master builder:

30 engineer:

31 landscape architect / garden designer:

32 interior decorator:

33 artist:

34 artisan:

35 builder / contractor:

36 NAMES give role & date: Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Grover Cleveland, William Howard Taft, authors Henry Ward Beecher and Julia Ward Howe, Alice and Eleanor Roosevelt, business magnates Luther Burbank and Andrew Carnegie all have been guests at the Inn.

EVENTS: Paul Revere (1735-1818), silversmith, Masonic Grand Master who conducted installation ceremonies at the Inn.

INSTITUTIONAL: "Railroad Meeting" (1846) town meeting leading to separation of Groton Jct. (Ayer) from Groton

NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

Allegedly composed of three Groton's early 17th C.

Frame, clapboarding; 1-2 1/2 stories, modified L shape; gabled, flat, and shed roof sections; interior and exterior end chimneys, gabled dormers, front, full-width 1-story shed porch, 2 front entrances; composed of 1723 structure (possibly earlier), 1790's addition of possible 1714 structure, and 1840 addition of possible 1678 building; barn, annex, and 1914 brick garage. Operated as an inn since 18th C.; important guests have included William Howard Taft the night he defeated William Jennings Bryan for the presidency, 1908; acknowledged as nation's oldest Masonic meeting place; probable stop on the Underground Railroad; scene of many local activities, including 1846 "Railroad Meeting" which led to the separation of Groton Junction (Ayer) from Groton.

36

38

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Groton Inn		② OTHER NAMES: The Inn at Groton		③ date of entry: 8-3-76		④ county code: 017	
⑤ LOCATION street & number Main St.		city / town Groton		vicinity of MA		county Middlesex	
⑥ NPS REGION: North Atlantic		⑦ OWNER: ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:			
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO		⑪ CONGRESS DISTRICT: 5		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME		⑮ ACADRE: 8.32		⑯ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑰ CONDITION: ☐ excellent ☐ good ☒ fair		⑱ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated		⑲ altered ☒ original site ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ excavated		⑳ features: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7	
㉑ ACCESS: ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		㉒ ADAPTIVE USE: ☐ YES ☒ NO		㉓ SAVED? ☐ YES ☒ NO		㉔ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no	
㉕ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☒ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		㉖ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☒ oldest Masonic meeting place in nation 'only' ☐	
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㉚ architectural style(s):		㉛ architect:		㉜ master builder:		㉝ engineer:	
㉞ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉟ interior decorator:		㊱ artist:		㊲ artisan:	
㊳ builder/contractor:		㊴		㊵		㊶	
㊷ NAMES give role & date: Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Grover Cleveland, William Howard Taft, authors Henry Ward Beecher and Julia Ward Howe, Alice and Eleanor Roosevelt, business magnates Luther Burbank and Andrew Carnegie all have been guests at the Inn.							
EVENTS: Paul Revere (1735-1818), silversmith, Masonic Grand Master who conducted installation ceremonies at the Inn.							
INSTITUTIONAL: "Railroad Meeting" (1846) town meeting leading to separation of Groton Jct. (Ayer) from Groton							

㊸ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

Allegedly composed of three Groton's early structures

Allegedly composed of 3 late 17th and early 18th C. structures; operated as an inn since late 18th C. housing such important guests as presidents Grant, Cleveland, and Taft, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and business magnates Luther Burbank and Andrew Carnegie. Acknowledged as nation's oldest Masonic meeting place; part of the abolitionists' underground

52x89 initials SS date 11/11/76

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE

36. National Register Write-up: ~~■~~ railway; scene of many local government-related activities including the 1846 " Railroad Meeting" which led to the separation of Groton Junction (Ayer) from Groton.