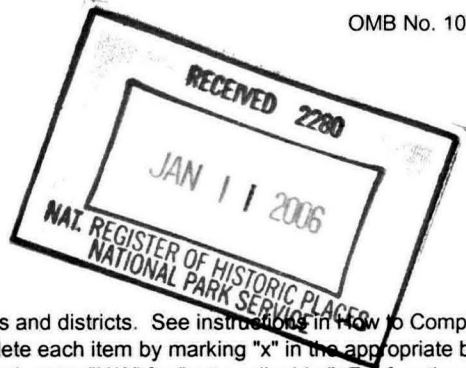


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BENNETT-SHATTUCK HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 653 MARTINS POND ROAD N/A not for publication

city or town GROTON _____ vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county MIDDLESEX code 017 zip code 01450

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon

12/29/05

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper Ethan H. Beall

Date of Action

2/22/06

Bennett-Shattuck House
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____ 1 _____		building
		_____ sites
_____ 4 _____		structures
		_____ objects
_____ 5 _____		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____ N/A _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ DOMESTIC: single dwelling _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ DOMESTIC: single dwelling _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ FEDERAL _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ granite _____

walls _____ wood - shingle _____

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bennett-Shattuck House

Name of Property

Middlesex, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1812-1955

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Groton Historical Society

Bennett-Shattuck House
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.8 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	292120	4721840	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sanford Johnson, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2005

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Sanford Johnson

street & number 653 Martins Pond Road telephone 978-448-2657

city or town Groton state MA zip code 01450

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Bennett-Shattuck House
Groton (Middlesex), MA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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7. DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The ca. 1800 Federal-style Bennett-Shattuck House (**photo #1**) is located in Groton, Massachusetts on Martins Pond Road, a lightly traveled winding lane in the northeast part of the town. The 2½-story side-gabled, double-pile house has a post and beam frame, asphalt shingle roof, wood shingle exterior walls, and a foundation of split granite with fieldstone. A three-bay, two-story 15' x 30' parallel gabled addition or ell was added ca. 1900 to the east elevation of the main block and is set back 15' from the plane of the facade. The principal decorative elements are the symmetrical fenestration in the facade and the center entry surround with its pilasters, transom and full entablature. The landscape surrounding the house is agricultural fields and forest. Baddacook Pond is 800' south of the house. Floyd Hill (also called Baralock Hill), a drumlin with an elevation of 360 feet, rises in the rear or north.

The house was part of a farm established on the site by the early 18th century. The dry-laid split granite foundation of a barn exists across the road. The barn burned in 1930. Evidence of other buildings and the foundation of a silo also exist in this area. The parcel south of the road comprises approximately 30 acres and was historically associated with the house parcel. This was subdivided and bought by the town for use as conservation land in 1999. The house is in fair condition and retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. Original clapboards were covered in the early 20th century with wood shingles.

Exterior

The Bennett-Shattuck House is a rectangular, five by three-bay, side-gabled, 2½-story form distinguished by the Federal style symmetrical fenestration and by the classical center entry surround (**photo #3**). The plan of the main block is approximately 40' wide by 30' deep. The ell at the east side is a three-bay, side-gabled form of two stories measuring 30' wide by 15' deep (**photo #6**). The ell is set back 15' from the plane of the façade of the Federal style block. The ground slopes up behind and to the east of the building, resulting in a slope immediately behind the main block of the house. The first story of the ell is built into the bank. Secondary masses consist of the four by four foot, shed roofed outhouse attached to the northwest corner and the stout center brick chimney measuring 45"x54" x45".

Federal style decorative elements are restrained. Most striking is the symmetrical fenestration in the facade. The center entry has classical trim in the form of pilasters with Doric caps, a molded transom bar supporting the five pane transom light with architrave, frieze, and cornice above (**photo #5**). The roof-wall junction of the

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Groton (Middlesex), MA

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facade is articulated by classical bed molding at the eave and crown molding above. Plain corner boards mark the edges of the façade. The center entry has a six-panel wood door that is 3'6" in width. A rectangular slab of granite serves as a front step.

Openings are symmetrical on the main block of the house. Fenestration in the façade consists of five windows with 6/6 double-hung sash which light the second story, and four which light the first (**photo #4**). The principal entry with transom light occupies the center bay of the first story. Two cellar windows with four-pane fixed sash exist below the facade. The west side wall has three windows in the second story and two in the first story, all with 6/6 double-hung sash. The north opening of the first story of the west elevation has a door with plain trim and a four-pane transom (**photo #7**). The east elevation has two 6/6 double-hung sash on either story. Facade and side-wall windows measure approximately 33" x 60". Attic windows in the side-gable peaks are 6/6 double-hung sash in the east and 6/8 in the west. Openings in the rear elevation are filled with 6/9 double-hung sash measuring 25" x 55". Windows in the second story of the ell are 6/6 double hung sash measuring 33" x 68". First story openings in the ell are less symmetrical, including six and 12-pane fixed sash and a door in the west end. A pedestrian door and boarded window opening pierce the second story of the ell at the banked east end. Windows appear to be original (**photo #8**).

The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Exterior walls of the main block are sheathed in wood shingles applied over original wood clapboards. Walls of the ell are wood shingles and horizontal flushboard at the first story of the front elevation(**photo #9**). Foundation materials in the main block are rectangular slabs of split granite at grade with fieldstone construction below. Foundation materials in the ell are concrete with some brick and fieldstone.

Interior

The two-pile floor plan of the main block of the house is arranged around the central brick chimney which measures approximately eight feet on a side. The first floor has two rooms measuring 14'x16' that face south and flank the center stair hall. The easterly of these rooms is the more formal judging by the chair rail that caps the wainscoting, the increased height of the baseboard, enhanced beaded carving in the mantel and double window and door casings separated by a molding. The westerly room lacks the chair rail atop the wainscoting, has a shallower baseboard, more simply trimmed mantel, and single molding around window and door openings (**photo #10**). The westerly room contains a crane for cooking in the fireplace and a bake oven with ash pit. First floor rooms flanking the stair hall appear to retain original Federal style trim with quirked moldings.

The center stair hall measures approximately nine feet by four feet and gives access to the main staircase. The rectangular staircase winds 180 degrees with two squared corners and three sections of handrail supported by three elongated columnar newel posts, the largest of which is located at the bottom. Posts, balusters, treads, risers and nosing appear to be original (**photo #13**).

(continued)

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The rear or north of the first floor plan consists of a 30'x12' recently remodeled kitchen which retains some historic trim around the west and east doors (**photo #14**). Historic trim also survives and around the fireplace which is larger than others in the house and retains its crane, bake oven and ash pit (**photo #15**).

The northeast corner of the first floor plan has a five by ten foot former pantry (now a bathroom), four by ten foot hallway connecting the kitchen with the east side ell and flights of stairs rising to the second floor and descending to the cellar (**photo #16**). These service areas are divided by wood plank walls that appear to be original and have evidence of the beaded trim found elsewhere in the house. The hallway has two layers of historic wallpaper. The outer layer has mid 19th century Moorish arch designs that frame scenes dominated by leafy vegetation and onion-domed architecture. Remnants of vivid blue and red color survive in some places although it is mostly faded to a dark brown. Wallpaper below this has scenes of white classical statuary and architecture. The uneven nature of the hand-blocked prints and the subject matter suggest it was applied around the time of construction.

Second floor rooms at the front (south) of the house are nearly identical in size and layout to those below although no wainscoting exists. Single casings surround window and door openings. Also, fireplaces on the second floor are smaller than on the first but retain the Rumford design and quirked molding in mantels designed after patterns by Asher Benjamin that appear as plate XVII in The Country Builder's Assistant. The rear of the second floor has at its northwest corner a room at that is smaller than those in the front of the plan and appears to be part of the historic floorplan judging by the matching trim and the Federal style paneled door. The northeastern section of the second floor is unfinished, lacking plaster or trim. On the east wall a door gives access to the ell. Between these two spaces are a closet and bathroom of modern construction.

The chimney has on each floor three fireplaces facing east, west and north. The largest is in the kitchen and measures four feet in height by six feet in width. The brick hearth extends two feet into the room at a level flush with the floor. A bake oven with domed brick roof and ash pit below are built into the chimney on the east side of the modified Rumford style firebox. The plain surround is historic and has a smooth board trimmed with a single piece of molding and no mantle. East and west rooms on the first floor have three by four-foot fireplaces with shallow brick hearths. The east fireplace has a shallow mantel and ornamental trim with intricate geometric patterns carved at the corners. The west fireplace has plain molded trim and mantel with an oven and ash pit similar to the kitchen. Second floor fireplaces in the east and west rooms are smaller than those on the first floor, measuring approximately two by three feet (**photo #12, 20**). These also have simple trim and shallow mantles. The north fireplace on the second floor has no wood trim or ornamental surround. All have modified Rumford style fireboxes with flared cheeks and smoke shelves.

Interior doors are four-panel designs that appear to be from the time of original construction and have flat panels on one side with feather-edged panels on the reverse (**photo #11**). Doors of this type exist in 13 locations on the first and second floors. Cabinets were built during original construction into the walls in some locations. Two by three-foot doors access the set of six-foot high recessed shelves adjacent to the fireplace in the east room on the first floor. A second smaller cabinet is on the opposite side of the fireplace and has a single door. Similar

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features are found in the west room on the first floor and in the front hall at the upper landing (**photo #21**). A full-size interior door gives access to a narrow closet in the east second floor room.

Floors in every room except the recently remodeled kitchen have historic wide pine boards. Several types of latches exist, the oldest of which appear to be hand-hammered wrought iron in a bean leaf form (**photo #18**). Some have been replaced with recycled Federal period iron latches. Hand riven lath is in evidence throughout the house and appears to retain original plaster.

The interior of the 15'x30' ell includes open rooms on both floors. The first floor was historically a workshop and so remains entirely unfinished (**photo #19**). Exposed studs and un-milled sleepers of the balloon frame give the appearance of the interior of a barn. The rear wall, which retains the elevated grade of the back yard, is poured concrete that might have been intended to reinforce a failing dry-laid stone foundation. It is unknown when this was built. The west wall is dry laid fieldstone and retains the elevated ground of the side yard. This wall has large gaps in the masonry and is bowed inward. An opening in the concrete rear wall leads to an apple cellar. The subterranean mortared fieldstone room measures approximately 10'x15' and has the arched form of a barrel vault. A two-foot square recession of undetermined use is built into the rear wall. The second floor of the ell also has balloon frame construction of two by four dimensional lumber. Walls are unfinished and are open to the rafters. Doors are located at either end of the narrow room. Three double-hung windows light both the north and south walls.

An outhouse, now temporarily detached, was on the northwest corner and accessed through a door in the back wall of the kitchen. The outhouse has a shed roof and measures four feet by four feet. Dry laid stone retaining walls have been built in the yard in three locations. The most intact is an L-shaped retaining wall of six feet in height and 20' in length located on the north (rear) side of the house at the junction of the main house and the ell (**photo #23**). A second wall is 15' long and retains a bank of earth at the east end of the ell. This has mostly collapsed. A third wall, partially collapsed, retains a four foot high bank of earth west of the main house. This wall has a length of approximately 70'.

Ornamental plantings are scattered across the yard. The densest concentration exists in the bank of earth immediately behind the main block of the house. Additional plantings, some dating from the 1950s, are located across the road. Deterioration of some framing components in the second story of the ell has occurred. Part of the south top plate has failed and caused leaks which have been temporarily patched.

Restoration

The house is currently undergoing restoration. Plans for the project include retention of most major exterior architectural elements such as windows, doors and trim, corner and eave trim, chimney and the ell. The front door has been replaced in kind (wood six-panel unit of near identical dimensions) and the classical surround remains intact. Existing wood shingles, a 1930s addition, will likely be removed to expose underlying hand cut

(continued)

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clapboards. Foundation stones under the rear (north) of the main block of the house ran only a single course in depth and so were removed. Earth was excavated to accommodate a poured concrete foundation and crawl-space under the kitchen. Oak sills were replaced with modern pressure treated lumber. Lath and plaster in the kitchen ceiling and walls has been replaced with drywall. Kitchen floors have been replaced with modern wide pine boards. Modern built-in cabinets and appliances have been installed. The former pantry is now in use as a bathroom. Walls dividing the northeast corner of the main block of the house into hall, stairs, and bathroom retain historic dimensions, doors, and door locations. Interior plaster and wood trim in remaining rooms appear to be original and have been retained. The dirt driveway has been relocated from the half-circle in front of the main entry to a 30'x30' gravel lot by the ell. The first story of the south elevation of the attached shed has been rebuilt using lumber to match the original. Windows were removed during the work and the historic sash replaced in the original locations. The grade of the landscape remains as it was prior to the start of restoration efforts. Surrounding agricultural fields, now owned by the town, are to be maintained as open land, thereby preserving the setting.

The stone barn foundation across Martins Pond Road (**photo #2**), once part of the Bennett-Shattuck farm, will also be retained. This is owned by the town of Groton and occupies a separate parcel. The foundation consists of large hand split boulders with smaller chinking stones between. The northwest corner has collapsed into the interior but the remaining walls survive intact. It measures approximately 30' x 40' and retains a wall of eight feet at its highest point. Granite piers that formerly supported the building remain but are no longer in a standing position. A former trashpit containing metal, glass and rubber trash exists on an embankment behind or south of the former driveway to the barn. A circular silo foundation and driveway lined in fieldstone also exist.

Additional evidence of outbuildings exists on the south side of Martins Pond Road including granite foundation stones in the ground adjacent to the road. No buildings remain on this parcel. A well that is no longer in use exists at the southwest corner of the house. A historic photograph shows a well house covering the well as late as the 1930s.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently known on the Bennett-Shattuck House property, sites may be present. One site is known in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The house and farm are located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping terrace in close proximity to wetlands. Wooded swamps lie less than 1,000 feet west of the property and Baddacook Pond lies a similar distance to the southeast. The area lies within the Nashua River/Merrimack River drainage. Given the above information, the size of the property (1.8 acres), historic land use from the existing and earlier farm, and known regional patterns of Native American settlement, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

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A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Bennett-Shattuck House property. Structural evidence from an earlier 18th century farmhouse may exist on the property. That house burned in 1811 and the existing house may have been built completely or partially on the earlier foundation. Structural evidence may exist from an 18th century barn on the north side of Martins Pond Road; however, the locational pattern of the barn associated with the existing house on the south side of the road may have its origins with the 18th century house. Archaeological evidence of outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist that were associated with the no longer extant 18th century house and the existing ca.1812 house.

(end)

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Bennett-Shattuck house was built ca. 1812, possibly on an existing foundation to replace a burned farmhouse. The builder, according to local historians, was Joseph Sawtell, who is thought to be responsible for construction of several Federal style homes in the region, many of which retain distinctive features. These include symmetrical fenestration, classical moldings and trim elements all of which demonstrate the influence of the 18th and 19th century designer Asher Benjamin. Farmer Joseph Bennett and his family raised livestock and subsistence crops from the time of the house's construction until 1838. The family of John Sawtell farmed the land, raising apples, livestock and crops from 1838 until ca. 1865. Some shorter term owners farmed the land before selling the property to Arthur W. and Eliza B. Shattuck in 1879. The Shattucks and their children continued the agricultural activities begun by the Bennetts and occupied the house into the second half of the 20th century. Susie H. Shattuck was the final member of the family to live here until her death in 1967. Subsequently owned and farmed by members of Groton's Lewis and Van Hoogen families, the house remained a site of crop and livestock husbandry until ca. 1989.

The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, thereby making it eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the local level. Properties justify listing under criterion A when associated with trends and events that have made a contribution to broad patterns of history. The Bennett-Shattuck House had been the residence of Groton farm families for nearly two centuries, associating it with seasonal patterns of planting and harvest that was a common way of living for many residents until the mid 20th century. Also, the house is significant under criterion C for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of Federal style design from the early 19th century. Its symmetrical fenestration, classical entry surround, integrity of materials, and agricultural setting are characteristic elements of farmhouses from the period. Additional Federal style characteristics exist on the interior that were inspired by illustrations in Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant. These include four panel doors, molding profiles, fireplace surrounds, windows, and other joinery. In addition to the above-mentioned woodwork which closely resembles the plates in Benjamin's work, proportions of rooms that the author suggests for a house 40' in width are observed in the Bennett-Shattuck House. The period of significance is from 1812-1955.

Narrative

Groton began its existence in the 17th century as a village at the edge of the frontier, settled by around 10 families from Watertown, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1655. Considered attractive for its tillable land and meadows, the town claimed 350 residents by 1675. The danger to colonists posed by King Philip's War in 1676 resulted in the abandonment of the town. Ongoing conflicts during the 17th and early 18th centuries between European settlers and Native Americans contained the pace of growth in Groton until ca. 1730, after which time, westering Colonists migrating from coastal towns expanded the regional population base. The number of residents in Groton exceeded 1400 by 1675. Newly arrived settlers tended to perpetuate regional agricultural practices of raising livestock, corn,

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beans, apples and other subsistence crops. Given the conjecture that Martins Pond Road came into use as a Native American highland trail route during the Contact Period (1500-1620), it may have been during the 17th or early 18th century that the initial house was built on the site of 653 Martins Pond Road. A property deed from 1738 describes a house on or near the north side of the road and a barn on the south side, a characteristic the property retained into the 20th century.

Francis Marion Boutwell, one of Groton's several historians, wrote a booklet in 1890 about old houses in his hometown, called "*People and Their Homes in Groton, Massachusetts in Olden Times.*" The contents include anecdotes based on recollections of aging and long-time residents including Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth among others. Regarding the Bennett-Shattuck House, Boutwell notes that Miss Farnsworth recalled that the owner in the autumn of 1811, Joseph Bennett, was traveling to Charlestown with a load of produce when he sensed trouble at home and turned around at Bedford. Upon his return he found his house destroyed by fire and one of his children burned to death. The current house is presumed to have been built the following spring on all or part of the old foundation. Property deeds do not indicate specifically that the house was burned although there was a transfer in 1813 of the property from co-ownership by two Bennett brothers to sole ownership by Joseph Bennett. Destruction of the house by fire may have caused Jonathan Bennett to convey his interest in the property to his brother. Also, Groton assessor's records from 1809-1812 indicate a steady valuation of \$1350 and an increase to \$1500 in 1813, further suggesting this as the date of construction for the new house.

Local historians indicate the Bennett-Shattuck House was likely constructed by the housewright Joseph Sawtell (1755-1844), builder and occupant of his own Federal style house on Old Ayer Road in Groton. While it has not been possible to ascertain the fact, details of structure, design and interior finish in the Sawtell House bear a strong resemblance to those in the Bennett-Shattuck House and suggest Mr. Sawtell as the builder. Also, according to Virginia May's book Groton Houses, reminiscences by 88-year-old Groton resident Joseph Raddin recorded in 1930 were that the Bennett-Shattuck House was built by an unspecified member of the Sawtell Family. While serving in the military during the Revolutionary War, Joseph Sawtell marched to Concord from Littleton on April 19, 1775. He moved to Groton shortly after the war and bought a 45-acre parcel of land for a house, the deed for which describes him as a housewright. Mr. Sawtell was admitted to the Congregational Church in 1787 and was elected deacon in 1811. Design (with the aid of Asher Benjamin's builder's guides) and construction of several additional Groton buildings, mostly residences, are accredited to Mr. Sawtell. A brief description of the Bennett-Shattuck House shortly after the time of construction, made by the lawyer, historian, and surveyor Caleb Butler as part of his field notes for the 1829 map of Groton, notes a two-story building painted yellow with a single chimney and five windows across the façade. The house retains three characteristics including sparse flakes of yellow paint on exposed sections of the clapboard siding under the shingles exterior.

Joseph Bennett (ca. 1771-1828) was described as a yeoman in the 1800 property deed conveying the Bennett-Shattuck House's predecessor dwelling to him and his brother Jonathan from Royal Blood. The property at that time consisted of buildings, 70 acres of orchards, mowing, plow land, pasture and woodland and is describes as being two parcels, one north of the road and one on the southerly side of it. According to federal census schedules from 1810 and 1820, the Bennett house had nine occupants including Joseph's wife Sally, daughters Betsy and Emiline and two sons, Josiah

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and James. Mr. Bennett appears to have been a successful farmer and businessman, having accumulated by the time of his death, in addition to his own farm, two additional farms of 50 and 160 acres, a church pew in the Old Meetinghouse, two pews and a horse stall in the Union Meetinghouse. His personal estate included Windsor chairs, mahogany furniture, a silver tea service, and a clock, all of which suggest some level of domestic refinement, although valuations for the house were among the middle range for farms in Groton. Farming equipment listed in probate records includes, among other incidentals, wagons for use by horses and oxen, 25 cider barrels and a loom. (Wear marks in the floor and the unfinished nature of the rear room upstairs suggest it as the location for the loom or other domestic work-related machinery) Produce on the farm in 1828 included rye, hay, corn, beans, potatoes, vinegar and cider (two apple trees continue to exist in the yard and may have been planted during the period). Livestock included oxen, horses, cows, swine, and sheep. The varied contents of the probate inventory suggest a self-sufficient farming operation of the type established across Massachusetts starting in the Colonial Period. Descendants of Mr. Bennett sold the property to the neighboring farmer John Sawtell in 1838 (no known relation to the housewright Joseph Sawtell).

John Sawtell (ca. 1796-1865) occupied the farm from 1838 until his death in 1865. During that time, he kept horses, cows and oxen in numbers comparable to many Groton farmers according to tax valuations of his property and those of others. The 1850 agricultural schedule of the federal census indicates he also kept swine and sheep. The same records show he grew rye, corn, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, and hay. Mr. Sawtell sheared his sheep for wool and also made butter. The mounts of these products tended to be around the average for Groton farmers except for the higher than average amount of butter and hay, indicating a focus on dairy farming. Agricultural schedules for 1860 are similar to those from 1850 except for the appearance of orchard produce, particularly apples, of which Mr. Sawtell harvested \$200 worth. This may be indicative of the farmer's effort to raise cash crops rather than continuing to rely solely on subsistence crops. Mr. Sawtell's listing in state census records show that his wife Sarah died around 1860, after which he occupied the house with his relative S. Lucretia, Edward P. and Sarah V. Sawtell. After Mr. Sawtell's death, several subsequent owners enjoyed shorter tenure on the farm over the ensuing 11 years. These included Orrin Bennett, Frederick H. Carpenter, Reuben Lewis, David Fosdick Jr. (the Unitarian Minister), and Peter D. and Anna Eyleshimmer. The Eyleshimmers sold to Arthur W. and Eliza B. Shattuck in 1876. The Shattuck family would continue to occupy the house for over 90 years. Around 1870, the population of Groton had climbed to nearly 3600 residents. That number was reduced to around 2000 after 1871 with the separation of the manufacturing village of Ayer, formerly called South Groton or Groton Junction.

Arthur W. Shattuck (1848-1926), who grew up close by on Martins Pond Road at the farm of his parents, Noah and Prudence, and Eliza B. Mason Shattuck (1854-1926), who was born in New York and moved to Groton from Harvard, were married in the mid 1870s. They bought 100 acres with buildings, including the Bennett-Shattuck house, barn on the south side of the road and a shed, for \$3800. The Shattucks were taxed in 1878 for ownership of two horses and eight cows, a relatively small amount of livestock compared to other farmers in the town. The amount of livestock increased over time and ultimately included sheep, swine, and fowls in numbers comparable to other Groton residents. The Shattucks tended to have a larger number of fowls than their neighbors but fewer horses, oxen, and bulls. The buildings were valued at \$1200 in 1880 but the amount increased to \$1500 in 1881, suggesting some structural

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improvements were carried out at that time. This may reflect the construction on the east side addition although no specific mention of it is made in tax records. The type of lumber and method of construction used in the shed addition are commensurate with the 1880 date. In 1880, Arthur and Eliza lived with a 14 year old relative of Eliza's named Clara and servant/laborers named John Lock and Oscar Burgess according to federal census records. By 1890, they had children named Susie (1881-1967) and Mary (1882-1956) and by 1900, the Shattucks had a third child named Arthur Mason (1894-1963). The Shattuck family continued to earn their living from their small dairy herd and flock of fowls. Their orchard was also productive and well-known enough to receive mention the newspaper the *Groton Landmark* in 1902 when Arthur fell from an apple tree. He was noted as having "picked many apples in his life". In 1906, the oldest child, Susie Haswell Shattuck, acquired her own herd of livestock, a flock of chickens and by 1910, at the age of around 29, she became the legal owner of what was called Baddacook Farm, named after a nearby pond. Her parents continued to live on the farm, but Susie kept the accounts, bought and sold livestock and managed the farm.

From 1912 until at least 1916, Susie kept highly detailed records of all the family's expenditures and income. From these it is possible to know that she managed not only her younger brother Mason in his work as a sawyer, plowman, teamster of logs and hay, but but her father Arthur in his farming duties. No mention is made of Eliza Shattuck in the account book. In her role as farmer, Susie contracted for construction of a new silo in 1915, indicating the ongoing dairy activity (she owned 10 cows at this time). The circular concrete foundation of the silo exists to the south of the barn foundation on the south side of Martins Pond Road. The first mention of electricity at the house appears in the account book in 1914, one of the more significant changes to the house in that period. Some existing fixtures in rooms on the second floor may date from that time, a supposition based on the fixtures' similarity to examples in a catalog from 1915. Susie recorded in the account book the many secondary sources of income from Baddacook Farm which included trading horses, boarding cows, selling chickens, eggs, milk, a duck, vegetables, and at least seven varieties of apples, frequently by the barrel. Mason augmented his income by hunting and trapping. Groton's population in the 1920s remained around 2200, most of whom worked as farmers although a busy town center existed where Susie did her shopping.

During the early 20th century, there was little expenditure on any of the farm buildings, including the house. Given the detail of the entries in the account book, it is likely that any significant outlay for building materials or repair supplies would have been included, but only the electrical fixtures and a door latch were mentioned. This suggests the house remained largely unchanged during the time of Susie's ownership from 1910-1967. Indeed the supposition is borne out by examination of the house itself. Most interior features, such as door and window trim, floors, mantels, stairs and balusters remain intact. The floorplan has survived with minimal alteration although, based on the pattern of flooring materials, some changes, the nature of which are not clear, took place in the rear of the first floor (now the kitchen). While the exterior of the house retains historic window and door trim, wood shingles were added in the 1930s. Entries in the account book end in 1916, thus precluding any information about the exact date of the shingles or other improvements such as the oil burning furnace installed in the 1940s of 1950s or the outhouse built in the 1930s. The most significant change to the appearance of the property in the 20th century was the destruction by fire of the barn on the south side of Martins Pond Road in 1930.

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Susie Shattuck died in 1967, leaving her property to her doctor, F. Woodward Lewis of Groton Center. Dr. Lewis maintained but did not occupy the house. In 1973, Dr. Lewis's daughter and son in law, Sarah and Phil Van Hoogen moved into the house and remained until 1989. The Van Hoogens farmed the land on a small scale and kept cows, sheltered by a shed that has since been demolished, in the 20 acre field on the south side of the road, thereby perpetuating the historical agricultural associations well into the 20th century. The Van Hoogens made minor changes to the interior, including adding plumbing for a kitchen in the rear of the first floor and bathroom on the second floor. The exterior remained unaltered from its 1930 shingled condition. Thus the house has retained a great majority of the features from the 19th century and from the time of construction in 1812.

Conclusion

The historical significance of Bennett-Shattuck House is based on retention, through nearly two centuries of agricultural use, of its association with farming activities in Groton. The variety of livestock and subsistence crops raised by the Bennett family in the Pre-Industrial Period is indicative of the economic patterns of farming prior to the advent of the railroad. At that time, farmers were likely to cultivate or to hand craft items they might have needed, a pattern of subsistence put into place during the Colonial Period. Crops of apples and butter raised by the Sawtells mark the change from Pre-Industrial subsistence farming to a focus on cash crops which was typical of the Industrial Period. By the mid 19th century, farmers were able to raise large quantities of a single crop and sell it abroad. This was due to the improved rail-based distribution network and to increasing markets in cities such as Boston and Lowell. The Shattucks' pattern of mixing agriculture, trade and small-scale retail activity is indicative of the financial coping methods forced on farmers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by a relative decrease in farm productivity, competition with large-scale Midwestern farms and the market based food distribution system engendered by improving transportation networks. This was the final phase of agricultural productivity around the Bennett-Shattuck House prior to Groton's gradual alteration from farming town to modern residential suburb.

The Bennett-Shattuck House is also significant for its high level of integrity of both interior and exterior architectural features. The preservation of these elements and materials may be a happenstance of farming productivity on the decline. Families in New England with little financial wherewithal were unlikely to spend on such things as home improvement, remodeling or significant structural changes for their own sake. The Shattucks ability and willingness to make do during the initial decline in agricultural productivity, Dr. Lewis' benign stewardship in the mid 20th century and the Van Hoogens minimal alterations in the 1970s resulted in a well-preserved Federal style farmhouse.

Restoration efforts starting in 2000 have included sash repair, addition of a concrete foundation under the rear wall of the house, restoration of interior and some exterior trim. The restoration is taking place under guidelines set forth in a preservation restriction overseen by the Groton Historical Commission. Restrictions preclude the application of vinyl siding, skylights etc., and require that the GHC review any significant work on the house.

The seller of the Bennett-Shattuck House in 2000 was the Groton Land Foundation, a subsidiary of the non-profit Groton Conservation Trust, whose mission is to preserve historic and other culturally significant landscapes in the town. The GLF bought approximately half of the 100 acres formerly belonging to the property, and subdivided the

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Bennett-Shattuck House on a 1.8 acre lot while at the same time creating four others to the north, which they sold to finance the purchase. All five owners are restricted from building or occupying the field that comprises the collective back yard and are required to mow it once a year in order to preserve the agricultural appearance. The remainder of the undeveloped land on the north side of the road is now owned and managed by the GCT. Approximately 50 additional acres, also formerly part of the Bennett-Shattuck property, are on the south side of Martins Pond Road and are owned by the town and are protected by conservation restrictions. As part of the 2000 offer to purchase the property, the consultant pledged to write the NR nomination.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Groton are poorly understood, any surviving sites in the nominated area could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information relating to Native American subsistence and settlement patterns in the Central Massachusetts/Worcester Plateau uplands and the Nashua River drainage. Potential Native sites on the nominated property may be limited to smaller, short-term campsites with a focus on upland resources and secondary wetlands. The property might also include the periphery of a larger site oriented to Baddacook Pond. Ancient Native American resources on the Bennett-Shattuck House property may contain important information that associates them on a functional, seasonal, and temporal basis with larger habitation sites located near the Nashua River to the west.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the early settlement of Groton and the development of agriculture in that community. Archaeological resources may exist that define architectural details of the earlier 18th century farmhouse and patterns of reuse, possibly with the foundation, for that structure in the existing house. Structural evidence from outbuildings may contribute important information relating to the farm building configuration through time and the activities that occurred on the farm. Locating the site of the 18th century barn can establish whether the existing pattern of the house on the north side of Martins Pond Road and barn on the south side developed in the 18th century, or later when the house was rebuilt. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features may contribute important social, cultural, and economic information characteristic of the farm's inhabitants and life in Groton during the 18th through 20th centuries.

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(end)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Bennett-Shattuck House occupies the parcel of land on Martins Pond Road west of Floyd Hill Road labeled by the town assessor as lot 50 on map 232. The boundaries of this lot coincide with the nominated area.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the nominated property were determined by following the outline of the building lot of the Bennett-Shattuck House. All land in the parcel and the building have been included in the nomination.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

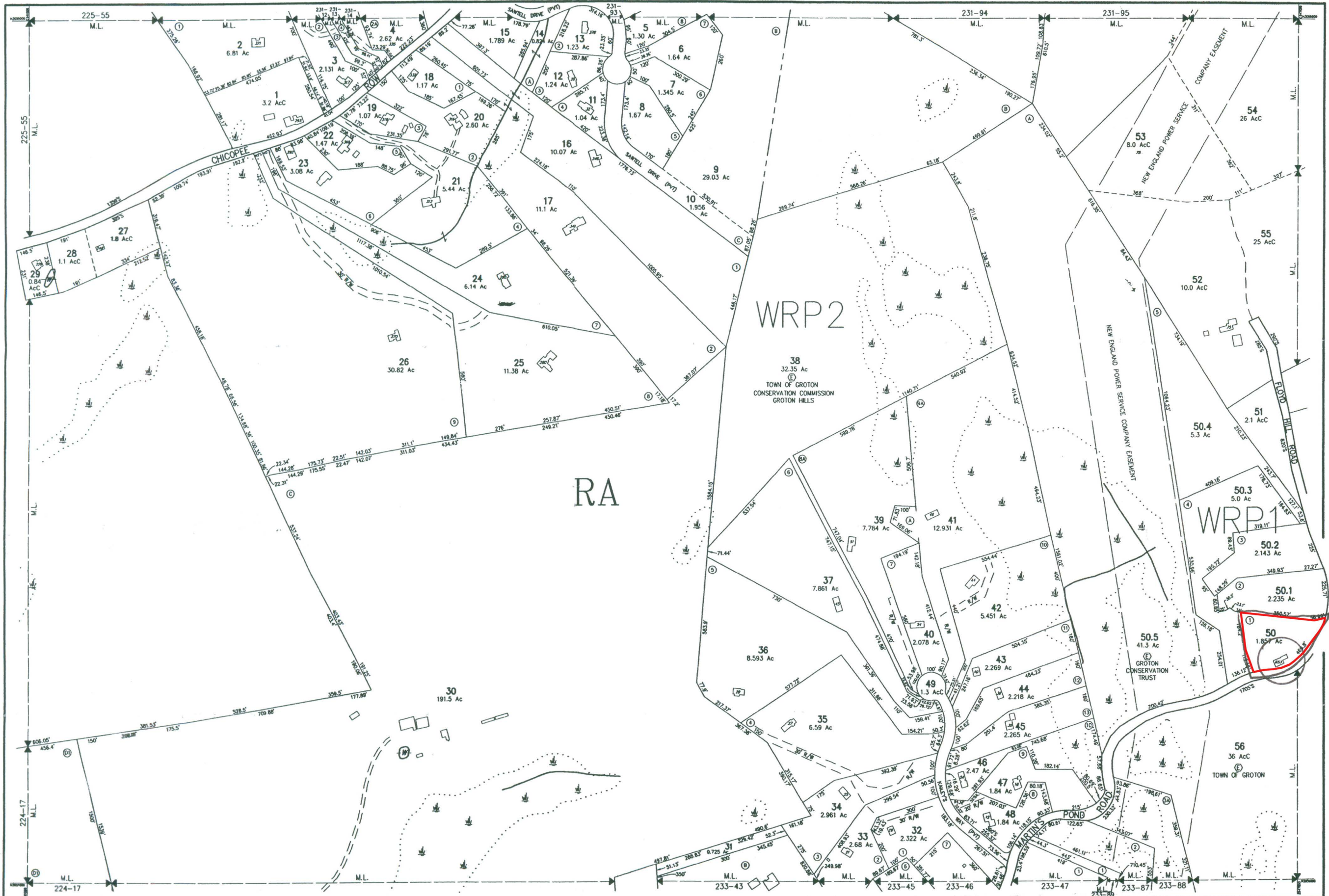
Photographer: Sanford Johnson

Date: September 2003

Location of negatives: with photographer, Groton, MA

1. South elevation, west view
2. Barn foundation, south side, Martins Pond Road, south view
3. South elevation, north view
4. South elevation, north view
5. South elevation, front door, north view
6. East addition, south elevation, north view
7. South and west elevations, northeast view
8. North elevation, south view
9. East addition, east elevation, south view
10. Interior, first floor, west room, northeast view
11. Interior, first floor, east room, north view
12. Interior, first floor, west room, northeast view
13. Interior, first floor, front hall, north view
14. Interior, first floor, north room, east view
15. Interior, first floor, north room, fireplace
16. Interior, first floor, back hall, east view
17. Interior, second floor, east room, northwest view
18. Interior, second floor, east room, west view
19. Interior, second floor, west room, southeast view
20. Interior, second floor, east room, west view
21. Interior, second floor, front hall, north view
22. Interior, east side addition, second floor, east view
23. L-shaped stone wall, north side, east view.

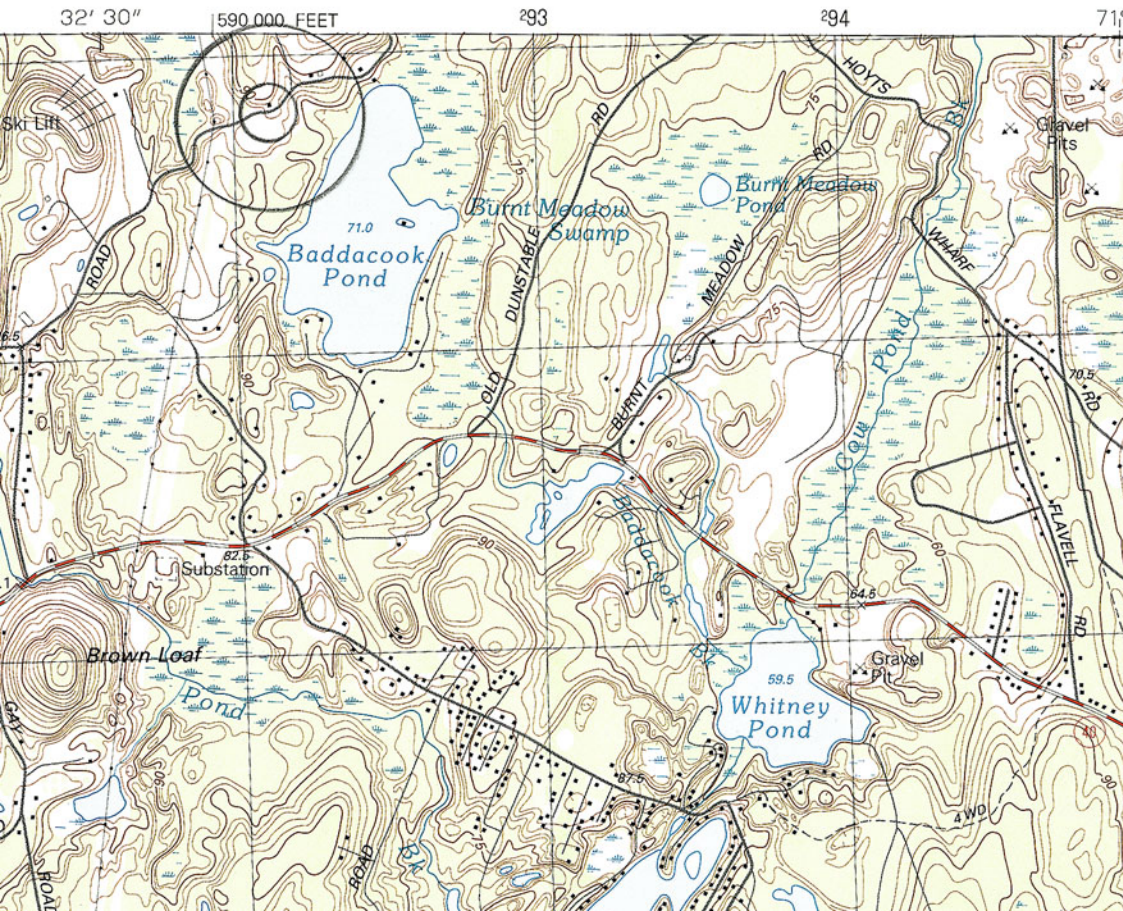
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Groton
 Middlesex County
 Massachusetts
 Bennett-Shattuck House
 653 Martins Pond Road

<p>THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.</p> <p>THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, MAD 83.</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 1998</p> <p>COMPLETION DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1999</p>	<p>PRODUCED IN 1999 BY CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC. PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS</p> <p>MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT 11 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 257, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03881 (603)444-6768 - 1(800)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1366 - WWW.CAI-NH.COM</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <p>AREA SURVEYED Ac</p> <p>AREA CALCULATED Ac</p> <p>RECORD DIMENSION 100'</p> <p>SCALED DIMENSION 100'S</p> <p>MATCH LINE</p> <p>WATER</p>	<p>EXEMPT PROPERTY.....</p> <p>SUBDIVISION LOT NO. (2)</p> <p>BUILDING</p> <p>RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS</p> <p>COMMON OWNERSHIP</p> <p>WETLANDS</p>	<p>SCALE 1" = 200'</p> <p>FEET 0 100 200 400 600</p> <p>METERS 0 50 100 150</p> <p>January 1, 2002</p> <p>REVISED TO:</p>	<p>PROPERTY MAPS</p> <p>GROTON</p> <p>MASSACHUSETTS</p>	<p>INDEX DIAGRAM</p> <p>226 231 244</p> <p>225 243</p> <p>224 233 242</p>	<p>MAP NO.</p> <p>232</p>
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7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



42° 37' 30"
 71° 30'
 590,000 FEET
 293
 294
 4721 MASS
 Middlesex
 County
 UTM
 Reference
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 Zone/Easting
 4721928
 Northing
 NORTH CHELMSFORD 11 KM

Bennett -
 Shattuck House
 653 Martins
 Pond Road

Groton
 590000
 FEET
 Middlesex
 County
 4721 MASS

UTM
 Reference
 19/0292130
 Zone/Easting
 4721928
 Northing



1. South elevation, west view



2. Barn foundation, south side, Martins Pond Road, south view



3. South elevation, north view



4. South elevation, north view



5. South elevation, front door, north view



6. East addition, south elevation, north view



7. South and west elevations, northeast view



8. North elevation, south view



9. East addition, east elevation, south view



10. Interior, first floor, west room, northeast view



12. Interior, first floor, west room, northeast view



11. Interior, first floor, east room, north view



13. Interior, first floor, front hall, north view



14. Interior, first floor, north room, east view



15. Interior, first floor, north room, fireplace



16. Interior, first floor, back hall, east view



17. Interior, second floor, east room, northwest view



18. Interior, second floor, east room,
west view



19. Interior, second floor, west room, southeast view



20. Interior, second floor, east room, west view



21. Interior, second floor, front hall, north view



22. Interior, east side addition, second floor, east view



23. L-shaped stone wall, north side, east view