

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EGR.116	
Historic Name:	May, Forest House - Fenton Brook Farm	
Common Name:	Homestead - Lexow, Robert House	
Address:	Jug End Rd	
City/Town:	Egremont	
Village/Neighborhood:	South Egremont;	
Local No:		
Year Constructed:	C 1889	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic;	
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Agricultural; Hotel or Inn; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;	
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce; Recreation;	
Area(s):	EGR.C, EGR.G	
Designation(s):		
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Foundation: Brick; Marble; Stone, Cut;	
Demolished	No	

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

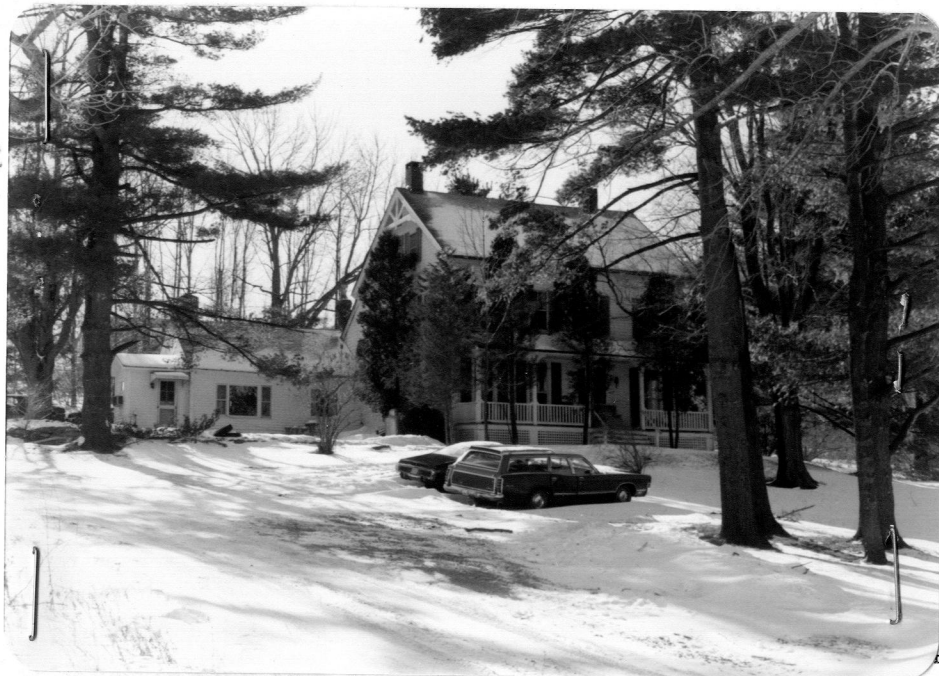
This file was accessed on: Friday, August 23, 2024 at 9:14 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

EGR. 116

Area <u>D.G.</u>	Form no. 116
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Egremont

Jug End Road

c Name Forest May House

Original Residence

Present Residence

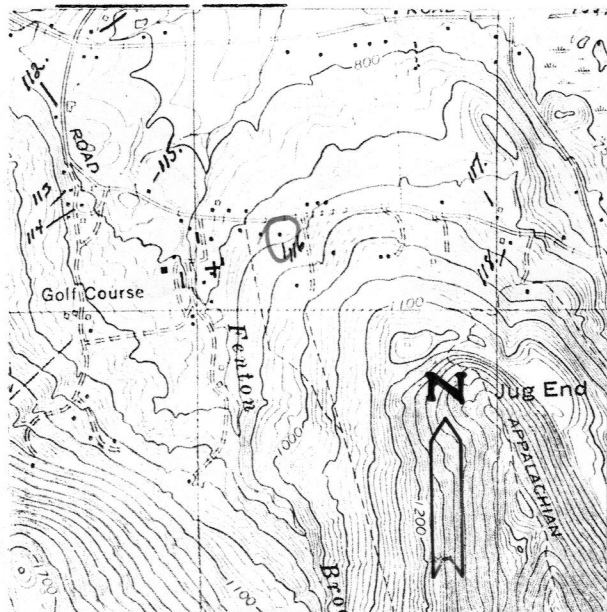
 Ship: ☒ Private individual
☐ Private organization

Public

Original owner Forest May

PTION:

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.



Date C1889-1890

Source History

Style 2½ Story East Lake, stick style

Architect

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings None

 Major alterations (with dates) ell to east
 side modern

Moved N/A

Date

Approx. acreage

Setting South side of Road - on rise

Recorded by JNP

Organization BCRPC

Date 9/4/80

(Staple additional sheets here)

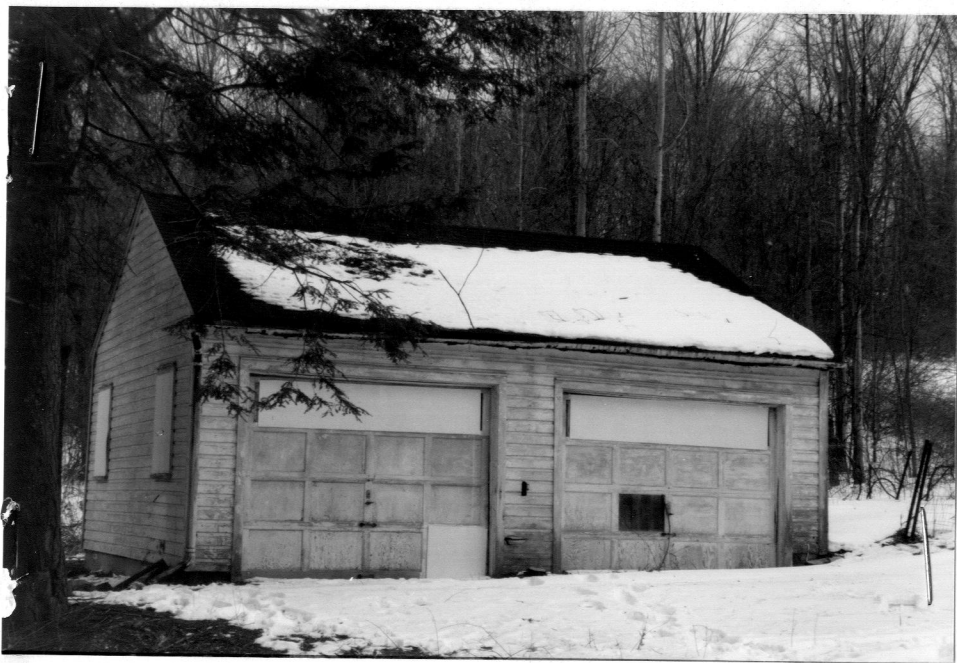
1904: J. W. Whitcomb, est.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

2½ story East Lake, stick style trim, twin end chimneys, asymmetrical veranda, french windows

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The main house of Fenton Brook Farm was called the Homestead and was built in the late 1870's by William May. Forest May, a son, built this house.



Garage - North elevation

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Egremont

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:

Property Address:

Egremont

May House, Jug End Road

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

Area(s)

Form No. 116
(DEM #1)

Former Jug End Resort
Continuation Sheet prepared by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
February/March 1995
(Amendment to 1980 form)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)*

The May House, also called the Homestead, Jug End Road, is a fine example of a late-nineteenth-century, side-gable, wood-frame farmhouse executed with modest Stick Style detailing. Facing north and set on a hillside terraced with cut-stone walls, the 4-by-3-bay house rises 2 1/2 stories from a foundation composed of red brick faced with white marble. A 1-1/2-story ell with shed roof is attached to the back (south) of the east gable. A wood porch with shed roof supported on bracketed piers extends across the first story of the facade (north). A two-light transom tops the main, double-leaf entrance which is reached by the porch. The dominant window form is 2/2 wood sash. The first-story sash stretch from the interior's floor to ceiling, while the ell and rear window treatments vary from dormers on the roof to single and multi-pane wood sash in the kitchen ells. Clapboards cover the majority of the exterior, with decorative, fish-scale shingles applied in the gable ends of the main block. Wall decoration consists of fan-like stick detailing in the gable eaves; blind panels above the second-story windows; and a continuous narrow band of applied board at the cornice line. A small, shed-roof 1-1/2-story ell continues the roof slope at the rear (south) east corner. A gabled 1-story kitchen ell is attached to the east end of the main block and rear ell, with a small entrance addition attached to the east end of the kitchen. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the ridge line of the main block; an uncut stone chimney rises from the kitchen ell, and a brick chimney is located in the rear ell. A metal fire escape has been added to the west gable end. The house is currently boarded up and vacant.

The interior retains most of its original floor plan elements and finishes including wood flooring, plaster walls, simple trim, and staircase.

The Garage, ca. 1940, is a two-bay, side-gable-roof structure with a concrete slab foundation, up-and-over doors, and shiplap siding. It lies to the east of the house.

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SEP 25 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:

Property Address:

Egremont

May House, Jug End Road

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

Area(s)

Form No. 116
(DEM #1)

Former Jug End Resort

Continuation Sheet prepared by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

February/March 1995

(Amendment to 1980 form)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (*continued*)

The May House (DEM #1, MHC #116) is one of several small family-run farms of the mid to late 19th century in Egremont. During this period, Fenton Brook Farm, which contained over 500 acres is first noted east of the Bradford property (the Guilder Farm (see Subarea A form)). The exact boundaries of the Fenton Brook Farm are unclear. To the east above Fenton Brook, William May constructed this house in ca. 1890. Across from the Mays, on the north side of Jug End Road, a large, late-19th-century barn (burned 1966) was constructed with "Fenton Brook" written in contrasting slate on the roof.

The property was purchased by Olde Egremont Inc. in 1932 as part of their vast land holdings and probably was the summer residence of one of the corporation members. The corporation sold the house to Robert Lexow who purchased and continued operation of the Guilder Hollow Club at Jug End Barn (DEM #10), but did not retain this house or the Guilder Farm (subarea A). In 1939, the May House was sold to Howard Wighton, and the Guilder Farm was sold to Irene Strobridge.

Between 1957 and 1964, Jug End in the Berkshires, Inc. had its greatest period of growth. During this period, the May House (DEM #1, MHC #116) was purchased. In the 1960s, careful interior renovations were made to this house for guest housing. This work primarily involved the addition of bathrooms and a fire escape to the west gable. It has been vacant since 1985 when the resort closed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (*continued*)

Berkshire (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds.

"Fire at Jug End Resort Razes Hay Barn Complex." Berkshire Eagle, 24 October 1966.

MacDonald, Mimi. "The History of Jug End in the Berkshires Incorporated." Unpublished.

Photo and caption of house in June, 1955 Berkshire EagleYurko, Chris. "The Story of Jug End in the Berkshires." Hampshire Life, 16 September 1994.**Historic Maps of Egremont:**

1794 (Fairchild), 1858, 1858 (Walling), 1865, 1875, 1904

XX Recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.



Front - North elevation



Rear - South elevation



Front - North elevation



East elevation



Porch detail



Interior detail



Interior-stair detail

EGR. 116

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

Community: Property Address:
Egremont May House, Jug End Road

Area(s)	Form No.

DEM #1

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ X Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ X C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Virginia H. Adams and Anne E. Tait, PAL Inc.
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The May House, also called the Homestead, is significant under criterion C at the local level as an highly intact example of a late-19th century farmhouse executed with Stick Style detailing, an unusual architectural vocabulary for the homes of Egremont.

Although the May House has associations with both the former Jug End resort and with Olde Egremont Inc., its associations with the resort were late (1955) and, unlike many of Olde Egremont Inc.'s other properties, which were extensively 'restored', the May House was little altered during the five years that the corporation owned the property.

Community: Egremont

EGR. 116

✓ KK
MKs

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 4/15/86

Date Reviewed: 4/30/86

Type: Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Jug End Recreation area

Inventory Form: #111-118

Address: Egremont

Requested by: ENF

Action: Honor ITC Grant R & C Other:

Agency: MEPA
ENF Staff in charge of Review: KK

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- ☐ Eligible
- ☐ Eligible, also in district
- ☐ Eligible only in district
- ☐ Ineligible
- ☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

- ☒ Eligible
- ☐ Ineligible
- ☒ More information needed

CRITERIA: A B C D

LEVEL: Local State National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Staff 4/30/86 (Friedberg)

It appears that a district of late 18th - early 20th century farm residences and outbuildings, which together demonstrate the pattern of rural development for this part of Berkshire County, survives along Jug End Rd. in Egremont. A number of the 9 properties have historic family links. More information would be necessary regarding the evolution of these family farmsteads, and a site visit would be necessary to determine the presence of intrusions.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
copies: Inventory form _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EGR. 116

Community: Egremont

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 6/28/95 Date Due: _____ Date Reviewed: _____

Type: Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Jug End Resort Inventory Form: _____

Address: Jug End Rd

Requested by: _____

Action: Honor ITC Grant R & C Other: _____

Agency: _____ Staff in charge of Review: aj & EB

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- ☐ Eligible
- ☐ Eligible, also in district
- ☐ Eligible only in district
- ☐ Ineligible
- ☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

- ☐ Eligible
- ☐ Ineligible
- ☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: A B C D

LEVEL: Local State National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by _____

See attached