

At #612 the **Harrison-Stickles-Emm House** → is in Federal Greek Revival transition style, built as a parsonage in 1825 for Abolitionist minister Marcus Harrison. His Congregational Church was on the NW corner of Salt Rd and Rt 222. Further south at the intersection of Elm St Ext, is the former **Salt Road Tavern** on the NW corner, built in 1824. The year is carved on the stone at the front entrance. When it was completed, the owner Miles Riggs publicly announced that if anyone could find a knot in the wood of his new home/tavern, he would give the building to that person. No knot was found. On the SE corner is a former ← **One-Room Schoolhouse**. Built in 1865, this was one of the district's 22 one-room



schoolhouses. The many windows on the south side looked out into the school yard. After school districts merged in the 1940s, the building was used for the Groton Grange and is now privately owned.

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6 **McLean** – Settled in 1796, the Hamlet of McLean is divided between Groton and Dryden. Within Groton is the **Elm Tree Inn**, which still serves food today. The principal section of this early hotel/tavern, conveniently located between Cortland and Ithaca, was built in 1914. It was named for the huge elm tree that stood in front, lost in the 1970s. A large cross-section of the trunk has

been preserved in front of the building. H Across Church St is the **Old General Store**, built in the 1820s; it still looks much the same. Across School St is the ← **Stagecoach Tavern** (also known as Robinson House); built in 1824, it originally had 33 rooms.

7 **Teeter Home** – Located at 100 Old Peruville Rd, on the corner of Pleasant Valley Rd, the house was owned by Henry and Azabah Teeter, who, it is believed, hid runaway slaves in the barn behind the house. H Nearby, on Sobers Rd is a marker noting the place where Charles W. Sanders, creator of an early spelling book, produced his primers. H



8 **West Groton** – The name was given to much of the town's westernmost portion, but the heart of the settlement is at the Cobb St-West Groton Rd intersection. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century this thriving community had two churches, many shops, and two schools. The Congregational Church was built on West Groton Rd in 1832; it still remains today as a house of worship and community meeting place.

### Annual Events

- Feb** – **Winter Festival**, Groton Elementary School, Elm St.
- July** – **Art and Wellness Walk**, Groton.
  - **Happening in the Hamlet**, McLean.
- Aug** – **All Alumni Reunion**, Groton Rod & Gun Club, 888 Elm St.
  - **Groton Olde Home Days**, held throughout the Village.
- Sept** – **Apples, Arts & Antiques**, held throughout the Village.
- Oct** – **Main St, Window Painting** by elementary school children; Scarecrow Exhibit/Contest.
- Dec** – **Holiday Lighting of the Christmas Tree**, near Terry Graves Memorial Park, Main St.

### Lodging L

- Benn Conger Inn**, 206 W Cortland St, Groton NY. 607-898-5817. [www.benncongerinn.com](http://www.benncongerinn.com). Food available. See #3.
- Bountiful Blessings B&B**, 147 Lick St, Freeville NY. 607-898-3370. [www.bountifulblessingsbb.org](http://www.bountifulblessingsbb.org).
- Turtle Dreams B&B**, 481 Lafayette Rd, Groton, NY. 607-838-3492. [www.dreamingturtles.com](http://www.dreamingturtles.com).

### Curiosity Shops & Antique Stores S

(almost all in Village center)

- Antiques- This and That Collectables**, 105 Peruville Rd. 607-898-2036.
- Antiquity Antiques**, 103 Main St. 607-898-3385.
- Brittany Station**, 152 Main St. 607-898-4994.
- Groton Hardware Store**, 116 Spring St. 607-898-5020.
- Groton Hobby Shop**, 129 Main St. 607-898-3112.
- Main Street Gallery**, 105 Main St. 607-898-9010.
- Martha's Place**, 160 Main St. 607-898-4909.
- Mill Race Antiques**, 157 Cayuga St. 607-898-3141.
- Sarge's Auction House & Antiques**, 448 Locke Rd. 607-898-9169.

### Recreation/Relaxation ■

- Corona Club**, 196 Main St. 607-898-3694.
- Essential Unwinding & The Art of Massage**, 111 Church St. 607-898-4113.
- Groton Cycle Center**, 555 Cortland Rd. 607-898-3315.
- Groton Rod & Gun Club**, 888 Elm St Ext. 607-898-4627.
- Groton Memorial Park & Pool**, 201 Sykes St. 607-898-9508.
- Patchwork Therapeutic Riding Stables**, 90 Old Peruville Rd. 607-898-3808.
- Stonehedges Golf Course**, Stevens Rd. 607-898-3754.
- Terry Graves Memorial Park**, Main St.
- Turtle Village TiPi Camping**, 481 Lafayette Rd. 607-838-3492. [www.turtlevillageproject.com](http://www.turtlevillageproject.com). Camping area with four teepees.

### Cemeteries ☪

- Groton Rural**, Clark St.
- Luther Family**, Stonehedges Golf Course, Stevens Rd.
- McLean Community**, Cemetery Lane.
- Old East Hill**, Rt 222 (Cortland St).
- Peruville**, Old Peruville Rd.
- St. Anthony's Catholic**, Clark St.
- Stearns (Allen/Stearns, Free, Old West Groton)**, Cobb St.
- West Groton Rural**, Durfee Rd, West Groton.
- Zion Episcopal**, McLean Rd, McLean.

### Historical Markers H

- Charles Sanders**, Sobers Rd, Peruville.
- Congregational Church**, West Groton Rd, West Groton.
- Cummings Home**, Salt Rd. See #5.
- Elm Tree Inn**, McLean. See #5.
- Indian Village**, NYS Rt 38.
- Old Baptist Church**, Church St, McLean.
- Sylvester Pennoyer**, Cayuga St, Groton.

*For more information* – Town of Groton Historical Association, 168 Main St, Groton; Goodyear Memorial Library, 112 E Cortland St, 607-898-5055; Rosemarie Tucker, Town of Groton Historian, 607-898-5867.

### Credits

Prepared by Municipal Historians of Tompkins County and the Office of the Tompkins County Historian

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## Touring the Towns of Tompkins County, New York



# Destination Groton





# TOWN OF GROTON

Settled in the late 1790s, the Town of Division was formed from the Town of Locke in 1817 and became part of Tompkins County. In 1818 community residents successfully petitioned to have the name changed to Groton. The town encompasses 50 square miles in northeastern Tompkins County. The Village of Groton was incorporated in June 1860. A 19<sup>th</sup>-century industrial center, Groton was famous for the manufacture of machinery, iron truss bridges, and carriages. In 1909 came typewriters with interchangeable type, known as Corona. Both town and village display a rich architectural legacy. Visitors are encouraged to explore the village and surrounding areas.

Rt 38 north of the Peruville Rd intersection marks what was once the boundary between the Cayuga and Onondaga nations (a boundary respected by both). On the right just past the intersection is the building, painted blue with maroon trim today, which was once Peruville School District #10. Further on is a marker for the Indian hunting grounds.

**1 Old Railroad Depot and Ice Cream Caboose** – When entering the village from the south, visitors will see a red caboose, an ice cream emporium housed in an actual caboose from the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The sign sits on a workman's trolley once used for repairing the tracks. Beyond the caboose is the old



Groton Railroad Depot, built in 1884-85 for the Southern Central Railroad (later the Lehigh Valley). The station is not open, but walk around and revisit the past.

**2 Shadowlawn** at 419 Spring St began as a typical farmhouse, built c.1869. The house was completely remodeled after 1912 by poultry farm millionaire Harrison Blanchard, with the addition of the two-story portico featuring Ionic columns, and matching porte cochère on the side.



Across the street from the Town Hall is **Nubia Bridge**, a bow-string truss structure manufactured in 1889 by the Groton Bridge Company. In the 1980s it was

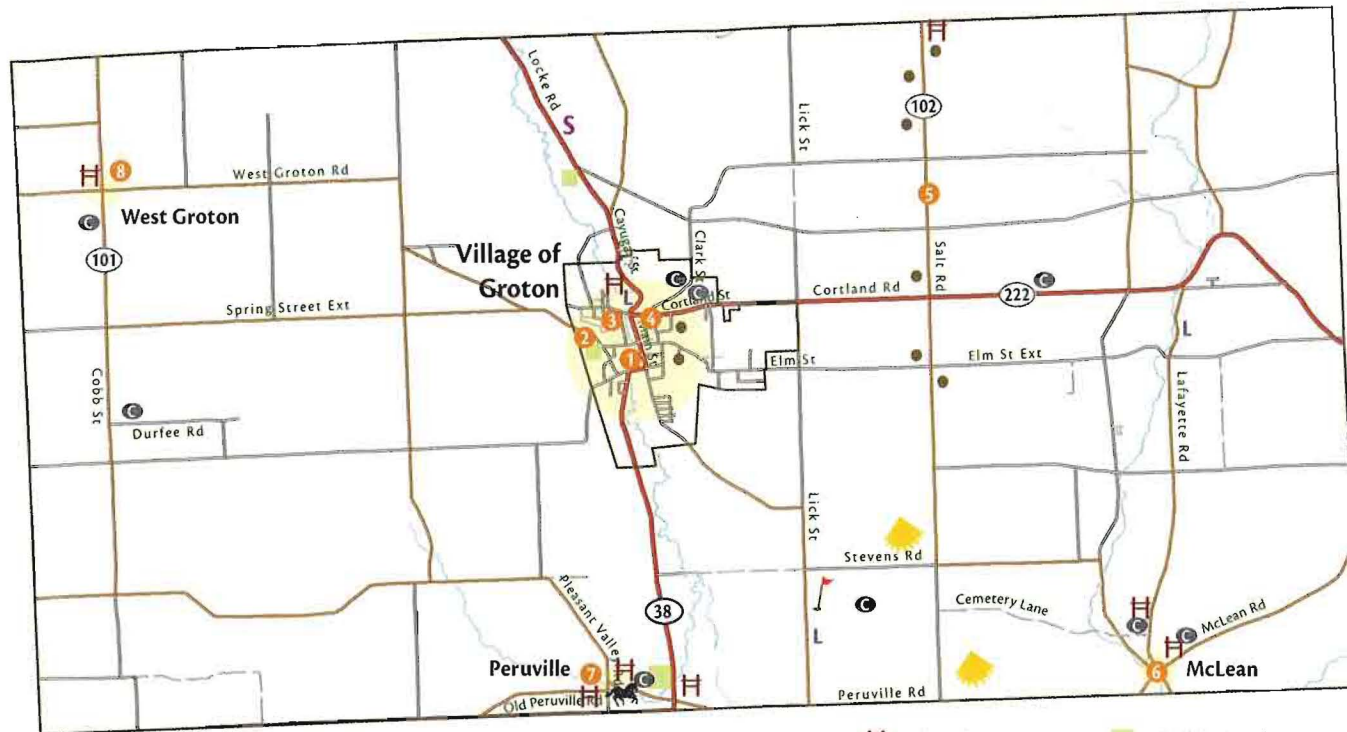
**3 Conger Boulevard** – The Groton Town Building is located at #101. Along the main hallway inside the **Town Hall** are late 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of Groton. Displayed in the Town Clerk's office is an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century handmade wedding dress. On the hillside beyond the building is **Bank Swallow Park**, an active nesting place in the warmer months



for *Riparia riparia*. Further along the road, take a look at the **Antique Fire Hydrants** display at the village Department of Public Works barns.



brought here by the Groton Historical Association for display. **Benn Conger Inn** ↑ at 206 W Cortland St is a 1920s Sears & Roebuck house built in the Colonial Revival style by local entrepreneur, banker, and NYS senator Benn Conger. He took up residence in his new home in 1921, just months before his death. Returning to Conger Boulevard, cross the footbridge to Main St. The **Main Street High School**, Schoolhouse Gardens Senior Apartments today, is at #177. This 1921 high school building later housed offices for the nearby Smith-Corona plant and in 1968 served as the original location of Tompkins Cortland Community College. Today it is used for Senior Citizen housing. Across Main St at #168 is the **Old Baptist Meeting House**, built in 1819. It was moved to its current location in 1843 to



- H – Historical Marker
- C – Cemetery
- G – Golf Course
- S – Scenic View
- R – Recreational Area
- L – Lodging
- I – House of Interest
- Horse – Horse Farm

become a residence. The characteristic Greek Revival-style massive pilasters recessed on the façade were probably added at that time. In 1979 the building was acquired by the Town of Groton Historical Association and houses its museum and offices, open Saturday mornings.

**4 East Cortland St** – The curious hump at the intersection of Main and Cortland Sts makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic. It is a natural feature caused by a sharply defined end moraine from glaciers moving through this area millions of years ago. On the corner of E Cortland St is the **Groton Hotel**, dating from 1853–1854. A tavern stood here as early as 1819. The hotel has operated under present ownership since 1974. Food is available. The **Goodyear Memorial Library**, → at #112, is a bequest of Dr. Miles D. Goodyear to create a memorial to his mother, Elizabeth. Designed by Ithaca



architect William Henry Miller, this Adam Colonial-style brick structure was built in 1916–1917 at a cost of \$20,000. The interior features lovely woodwork and windows. Across the street at #137 is the **Hare House**, an outstanding example of Queen Anne style. (Another notable Queen Anne residence is the **Tanner House** at 212 Elm St.) Further up the street on the same side is the **Moe House** at #201, with its unusual Greek Revival shape. Built in 1852, it probably was based on a pattern book design. Dr. Erastus C. Moe bought the building in 1856 for his home and office. Next to it, at #203, is an interesting Second Empire house with a mansard roof. Back across the street is the **Reynolds House**, on the corner of Church St, built in Dutch Colonial style in 1895. It features a gambrel roof and flared eaves and has paired oval windows with decorative lead tracery. The **Groton Community Church**, → at #204, was originally the First Baptist Church and dates from the 1870s. Built in Romanesque Revival style, it has interesting brick corbelling, repeated use of the round-arch motif, and a handsome bell tower. In 1966 the Baptist, Methodist, and Congregational Churches merged to form this congregation. The former **Groton Fellowship Hall** at 111–113 Church St, completed in 1883, is a high Victorian Gothic-style building, with a multicolored decorative scheme using brick and fine glass windows. It was the home of the Congregational Church until 1966.



Notable houses nearby, best seen by car, include a unique and well-preserved 1913 bungalow at 115 Pleasant St and next to it **The Mansion** → at 118 Park St, dating from 1875, an excellent example of Second Empire style with mansard roof and dormers, round-arch windows, and faceted bay windows. There is an Arts and Crafts-style bungalow built c.1910 at 313 E Cortland St.



**5 Salt Road** – In the early days wagons loaded with barrels of salt traveled this road from Syracuse to Binghamton. The **Cummings Farm**, at #911, has been owned by the Cummings family since 1810. H Further south is the **Gamel House** at #870, an 1825 Cape Cod-style residence, containing three back-to-back fireplaces all using one chimney. The largest fireplace has a built-in bake oven.