

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number  
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

150; 56; 14A-13	Mt. Toby	E	AMH. 147
-----------------	----------	---	----------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Lincoln-Sunset National Register District

**Address:** 15 Sunset Avenue

**Historic Name:** William E. Dickinson House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling House

Original: Single-Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1893-94

**Source:** *Springfield Republican*, 30 Dec 1893

**Style/Form:** Free Classic Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone; Uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard and shingle/ Wood;  
Glass

Roof: Asbestos Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Garage (modern)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

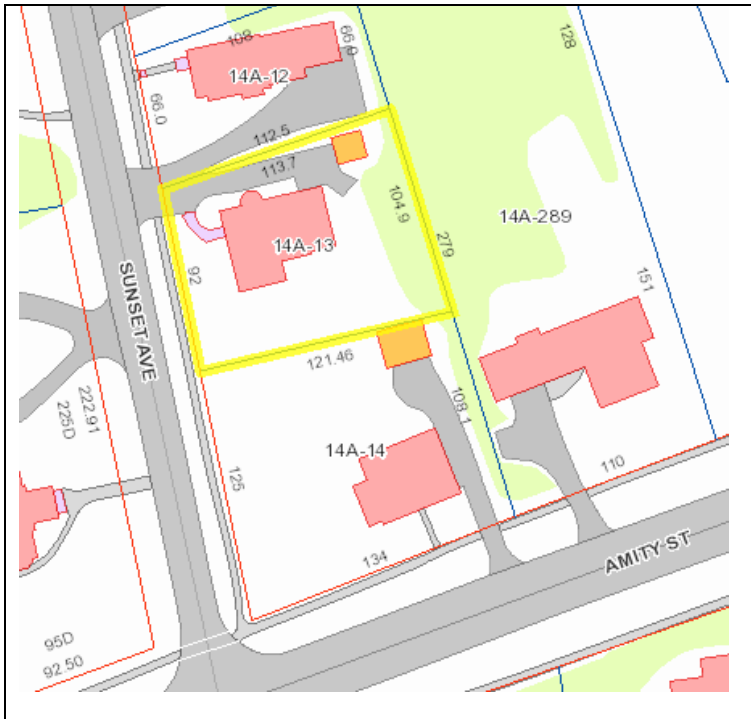
**Acreage:** .27 acre

**Setting:** On a tree-lined residential street, surrounded by late 19<sup>th</sup>-century homes.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Steve Bloom/Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): September 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

15 Sunset Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E

AMH.147

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

Although one of several large Queen Anne houses in the Lincoln Avenue area, this exuberant house is a textbook example of the Free Classic style. The street façade (west) has a second-story balcony with recessed wall surfaces and a projecting porch with both squared and classic columns. The porch pediment contains raised foliate decoration (pargetting), unusual in Amherst. Emphatically asymmetrical, it has angular elements on the south façade, a circular bay on the north elevation, a wraparound porch with a variety of columns, and a shingled exterior tying the elements together. Window sizes, shapes (including an oval window opening on the porch) and placement add to the decorative scheme. A modern garage stands to the rear of the property.

**\*\*SELECTED TO NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT (2/22/1993)\*\***

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

"The building has been largely confined to Sunset avenue, where Rev. William E. Dickinson is putting up a house costing \$3500," wrote the *Springfield Republican* in its year-end survey of building in Amherst during 1893.

William Eastman Dickinson (1832-1905) was pastor of the AME Zion Chapel, a church founded by Amherst College for Amherst's black residents. Born in North Amherst, he was a member of the Amherst College class of 1855 and earned an M.A. from Amherst in 1858. He trained at Union and Andover Theological Seminaries and was ordained in 1860. That year he married Eliza H. Hobart (1833-1922), also of North Amherst. She had attended the New York Conference Seminary. The couple lived in Amherst 1891-1905. Their son, Edward B., became a dentist and later lived around the corner in the Solomon Boltwood House (243 Amity Street). Following William's death in 1905, Eliza continued to live at 15 Sunset with at first two and later one of her sisters. She was still living there at the time of the 1920 US Census.

In 1928 the City Directory shows Warren S. Gault at this address, and in 1932, Wellesley C. Harrington.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"The Building Record for the Year now Closing," *Springfield Republican*, 30 December 1893, pp. 10-11.

William Dickinson, biographical material: *Amherst Record*, May 10, 1972.

Norton, Paul F. *Amherst: A Guide to Its Architecture*. Amherst: Amherst Historical Society, 1975, p. 66.

*The Leading Citizens of Hampshire County*, Boston 1896.

Amherst City Directories, 1895-1948.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Lincoln-Sunset Historic District, Amherst, section 7, p. 8.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Form B (1988), online in the MACRIS database.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

AMHERST

15 Sunset Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E

AMH.147

---

Amherst College Biographical Record: Class of 1855, consulted online 15 November 2015.