

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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



Town/City: Amherst

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

Address: 139 Sunset Avenue

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: Single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: before 1925

Source: Amherst Street Lists and City Directories

Style/Form: modified Cape Cod with Craftsman influence

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

two-bay garage (attached)
shed (1985)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

additions, 1973 and 1976

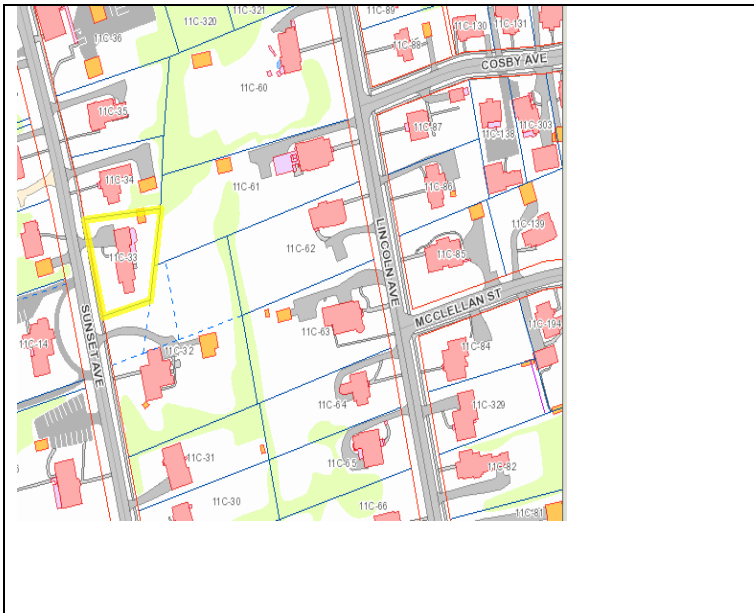
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .31 acres

Setting: On a residential street, near the University of Massachusetts. The house occupies an irregular lot.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): March 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

139 SUNSET AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.

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.

The central 1 ½-story end-gabled house has been added to on both ends, with connectors linking the parts. The main block has a saltbox roof, shorter in the rear than in the front, giving greater wall surface to the upper story rooms at the rear. To the left (north), an addition features a two-bay garage beneath living space on the main floor. To the right, a one-story side-gabled rectangle adds further living space. The current main entrance is in the link between north and central elements. This section has a slightly flared roof and is recessed. Fenestration of the center element has been altered over time. A centered roof dormer and broad brick chimney mark the central axis. This section of the house features exposed rafter-ends on the street facade, a Craftsman detail.

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.

Paul W. Viets and his wife Marjorie D. are recorded at this address in the 1925 Street List and the 1927 City Directory. Viets was a student advisor at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in the 1920s. Curry S. Hicks (1885-1963) and his wife Adeline moved into the house next, around 1928, and lived there through 1959. Hicks taught physical education at the school from 1914 to 1949, when he retired. He pioneered the development of the athletic program as the school evolved from the MAC to the University, championing the building of modern athletic fields and gymnasias.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst property card 2015

Amherst street lists

Amherst city directories

Curry S. Hicks papers, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Archives.

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