

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 Register District

Address: 21 Sunset Avenue

Historic Name: William and Augusta Casey House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1891?

Source: *Springfield Republican*, 1 Jan 1892, p. 3

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle/ Wood

Roof: Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acres: .17 acre

Setting: A small lot on a residential street, surrounded by late 19th-century homes.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Steve Bloom/Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): September 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

21 Sunset Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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AMH.146

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.

One of the better-preserved modest Queen Anne houses in the area and closely related to the series of Queen Anne houses found on McClellan Street and Northampton Road. Although the town-wide average value of a house, according to Assessors' records, was \$1606 in 1900-1910, this house by comparison with its neighbors was valued at \$2500. The three-bay façade features ornamental shingles in the gable, which also has paired gable windows. The sidehall entry is modest, with a flush door surround. The hip-roofed, full-width front porch features turned porch supports and vertical porch frieze and balusters. There is a bay in the first-floor south façade.

This front-gabled, three-bay sidehall plan house is typical of the style that was prevalent throughout Amherst 1879-1890. This style can be found in various sizes and embellishments, but this example, with more shingles and paired windows in the gable, plus corner brackets, is slightly more embellished than those on Northampton Road or Cottage Street.

****SELECTED TO NATIONAL REGISTER (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 *Springfield Republican*, in reviewing buildings erected in Amherst in 1891, mentioned a home built by William Casey on Lincoln Avenue at a cost of \$3000. Casey is not associated with any house of this date on Lincoln Avenue, but he and his family lived at 21 Sunset from at least 1900 through 1940. Perhaps the *Republican* was describing this house instead.

William H. Casey (b. 1865) married Augusta W. Ekland (b. 1862 in Sweden) in 1884. They had a son, Karl Ekland, in 1884. He was a machinist for Chevrolet and registered for the WWI draft in New York State in 1917. Karl must have died, however, as in the 1920 census a daughter-in-law, Emily I. (1889-1953), and four grandchildren were sharing the house. By 1940 one of these grandchildren, William F. (b. ca 1913), had brought his own wife, Lucy (née Lampron, c. 1919-2007), to live at the house (Emily had been remarried-- to Harry Church-- but was again a widow and back at 21 Sunset). Lucy continued to live there until 2001, making it more than a century that this family occupied the home.

William H. Casey was the manager of a livery stable. His grandson, William F., worked for Delta Epsilon fraternity and later was a custodian at Amherst College. Lucy became a research assistant at Amherst late in her life.

This house is not present in the 1886 "View Of Amherst," but it first appears in City Directories in the mid 1890s. Early residents of the street, in the 1900 Census, ranged from community leaders (The President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; a hat manufacturer) to workers (as here, a livery employee, and elsewhere a clerk).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Map 1886, "A View Of Amherst"—Bird's-Eye View.

"A Year's Building Record," *Springfield Republican*, 1 January 1892, p. 3.

1902, 1916 Sanborn Maps

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AMHERST

21 Sunset Avenue

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Amherst City Directories 1895, 1948-1960

US Census, 1900, 1920, 1930, 1940

Amherst Street Lists

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

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

Deed references from Town of Amherst Property Card 2014: 977/122, to William F. and Lucy Casey, before 1963; 4585/172, to Lucy, 8 November 1984; 6393/307 sold by Lucy, 16 October 2001.