

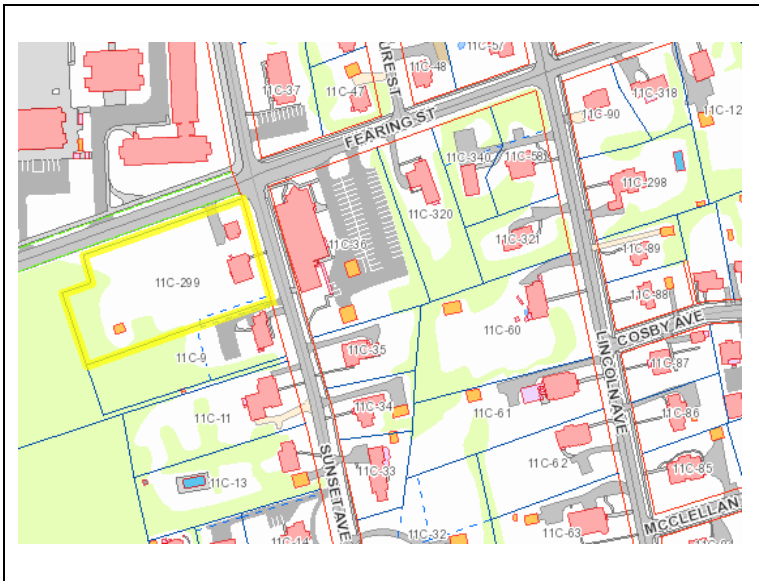
# FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date (month / year):** March 2016

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number  
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**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Amherst

**Address:** 174 Sunset Avenue

**Historic Name:**

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family residence

Original: Single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** by 1923

**Source:** Amherst street lists

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage, entered from Fearing Street; shed (1985)

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

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no     yes     **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.47 acres

**Setting:** Adjacent to the southern perimeter of the University of Massachusetts campus, on a large corner lot. The old Amherst Creamery, now an office building, stands across Sunset Avenue from the house.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

174 SUNSET AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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.*

This side-gabled two-story residence has its front door at the north (right) end of the street facade. A small open porch frames the door, with a railing on its roof at the second-floor level. A pair of 1/1 windows above the door emphasizes this axis. Another pair of 1/1 windows is found to the left of the door on the first floor, with a single window above. An open porch runs the length of the west side of the building. The main portion of the house seems older than 1923 and may even date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A newer one-story extension to the south has paired horizontal windows.

There is a hip-roofed square garage with attached shed, approached from Fearing Street. It is clad in vertical beadboard and has an asphalt shingle roof.

## 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.*

Sunset Avenue was included unnamed on the 1873 map, was not within the area covered in the 1886 Bird's Eye View of Amherst, but was included in the City Directory of that year. On the 1902 map it extended from Amity to Elm and by 1916 had its present configuration.

Luther Banta is listed as a resident at this address in the City Directory of 1927, simply on Sunset Avenue (no number given) in street lists from 1923-1926, and at 50 Sunset (today's 174) in street lists of 1927-29. Banta (1893-1975) taught poultry husbandry at the MAC, beginning in 1918 and continuing into the 1950s. The house was occupied by Harley A. Leland and his wife Hazel Irene (Gates) Leland (1896-1995), approximately 1934-1960. Harley Alanson Leland (1895-1988) taught in the agricultural extension program at the State College, serving as Extension Professor of Youth Work, in 1928 as State 4-H Club Leader, and in later years as Assistant Club Leader.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst property card 2015

Amherst street lists

Amherst City Directories

Biographical information on the Banta and Leland families from ancestry.com and MAC/State College/University of Massachusetts publications.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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174 SUNSET AVE

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