

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Photograph



Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Amherst

Address: 107 Sunset Avenue

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: Single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: c. 1953

Source: City Directories

Style/Form: Cape Cod

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: "clapboard" siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Garage addition (1968)

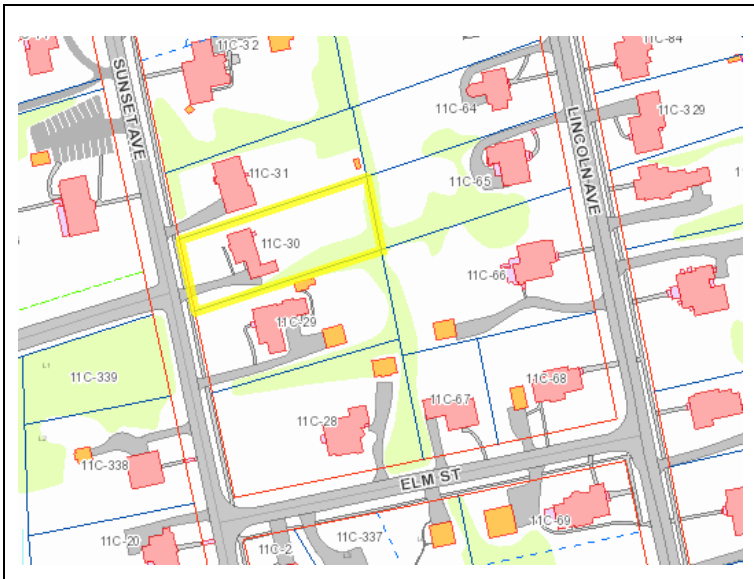
Condition:

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .44 acre

Setting: On a residential street near the University of Massachusetts

Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): March 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

107 SUNSET AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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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 modest Cape Cod house has an off-center original front door, sheltered by a gabled portico supported on brackets. A six-light picture window stands to its south, and a smaller window to its north. The garage was added in 1985, along with a new main entrance to its left.

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.

In the 1930s through the early 1950s a great many Cape Cod-style houses were built in Amherst. The vogue may have begun with the homes erected by builder William Gass of South Deerfield, inspired by the Early New England homes that were lost during the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. It coincided with a rising demand for smaller homes, easier to maintain without servants and attuned to the more modest economic situation of many homeowners in the period dominated by WW II. Soon ordinary builders took up the style, without Gass's sensitivity to materials and proportion. This house represents that phenomenon.

Jessie Beal Baker, wife of Ray Stannard Baker, sold the property to James J. Shea and his wife Anna A. (née Yochman) in 1952 (Book 1131/93). There is no house with this number in street lists prior to 1954, but James Shea (1915-1992), an Irish immigrant and a letter-carrier, is listed at 109 Sunset in the Amherst street list of 1954. The property was sold at his death, although Anna lived until 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Town of Amherst property card, 2015

Amherst City Directories 1937, 1960

Amherst Street Lists, 1950 and following