

# 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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**Town/City:** Amherst

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

Photograph



**Address:** 92 Sunset Ave

**Historic Name:** Mrs. Elizabeth Harrington house

**Uses:** Present: Single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1924

**Source:** newspaper article

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage/shed (1986). There is also a one-bay garage under the house at rear of north façade.

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

Deck added 1986. Replaced 28 windows 2014

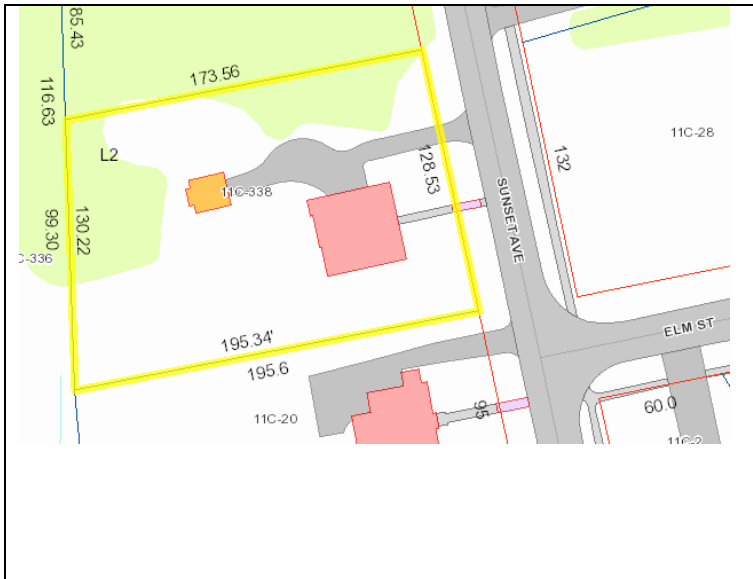
**Condition:** excellent

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

**Acreage:** .54 acres

**Setting:** The land behind this house falls off sharply, offering excellent views to the west.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

92 Sunset Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E

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 two-story gable-roofed colonial revival house has its ridgeline parallel to the street, capping a symmetrical five-bay façade. The center entrance features a row of small rectangular transom windows over the door, with a narrow hood above them. The building is nearly square in plan..

## 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 January 1925 listed the houses built in Amherst during the previous year, including one by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Harrington, valued at \$10,000 (no street address given). In all likelihood, it was this house. The house does not appear on the 1916 Sanborn map or in the 1920 and earlier US Censuses. It enters the record with the 1928 City Directory and the 1930 Census, in which the owner is Elizabeth M. Harrington (b. ca. 1873), a widow living alone. She continues at this address in the 1940 Census. It is not clear whether she was related to other Harringtons living on the street.

By 1942 Robert B. Whitney is listed as the owner. He and members of his family continued at this address until 1997. Robert Byron Whitney (1905-1993), born in Minnesota, came to Amherst College in 1930 as an instructor in chemistry and later became Professor with a named chair. He taught, among other subjects, an organic chemistry course required of pre-med students. He was Chairman of the Amherst School Committee in 1954. Robert's first wife, Josephine May (née Winter; b. 1906), died in 1947. In 1950 he married Mabel Hulda Winter (1900-1984). His son, Robert B. Whitney, Jr., and daughter Mabel also lived at 92 Sunset.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Amount Expended during 1924," *Springfield Republican*, 18 January 1925, p. 4.

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930, 1940

Amherst City Directories 1932-1948

Town of Amherst Property Card

Robert B. Whitney papers, Amherst College Oral History Project records, in Amherst College Archives.