

FORM B – BUILDING

11C-21 Mt. Toby E AMH.

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

Town/City: Amherst
Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Amherst

Address: 70 Sunset Avenue

Historic Name: Hubert G. Elder House

Uses: Present: Single-family residence
Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: c.1932

Source: newspaper article

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: cement block

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard; wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Major refurbishment 1991

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .58 acre

Setting: The house sits slightly farther back from the street than its neighbors to the north. Property falls away steeply beyond the driveway, offering views of the farm to the west.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): May 2016

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

70 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 house presents its long axis to Sunset Avenue, the façade stepping back in three gradual stages. The entry is in the second of these stages, covered by a small shed porch whose roofline angles from south to north. The two-story house boasts a broad brick chimney and aligned double-hung sash windows on two levels. There are four bays to the south of the entry, one incorporating the entry, and two to the north. Roof gables over the two northernmost sections face the street.

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.

1932-33 was an active year for residential construction in Amherst. A newspaper article in April 1933 enumerated more than 25 private homes that had been built recently, about half for the owner's use and the other half for investment. "No doubt the low cost of materials has been the greatest influence in this jump in local construction," it continued. "Some of the more pretentious homes are those of Hubert Elder and Fred H. Staples on Sunset avenue..."

Hubert G. Elder and his wife Mary B. lived at 70 Sunset from 1932 to 1960. Hubert Gray Elder (1903-1973) grew up in Amherst and attended Brown University (class of 1925) and the MAC (class of 1928). He entered into his father's business, C.R. Elder and Son, which sold lumber, paint, and building supplies at 55 Main Street. Later he became treasurer of both the Elder Jones Lumber Corporation and the C.R. Elder Coal Company. He served on the town Planning Board in 1952-54 and was treasurer of the *Amherst Journal-Record* in the latter year. In the 1940 US Census the household included two young daughters, Ann and Martha, a son, Douglas, age 5, and a maid.

The house served as the parsonage for Grace Episcopal Church from 1961 to 1991.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Much Building Activity is Noted in Amherst," *Springfield Republican* (?), 1 April 1933. A clipping of this article is pasted into Vol. 3 of the Mrs. C.A. Fawcett scrapbooks, pp. 16-17. The scrapbooks are now housed in the Jones Library Special Collections.

Amherst City Directories

U.S. Census, 1940

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 1348/366.

Communication from Jackie Wolf, former owner of and present neighbor to 70 Sunset Avenue.

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