

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Lincoln-Sunset Historic District

Address: 58 Sunset Avenue

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence
Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Source: National Register nomination form (1988)

Style/Form: Craftsman/ Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible
Wall/Trim: Stucco, Masonry/wood
Roof: Asphalt shingle/skylights

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
In-ground Pool

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
01/05/2011 Re-roof
03/08/2012 Replace windows and stairs

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

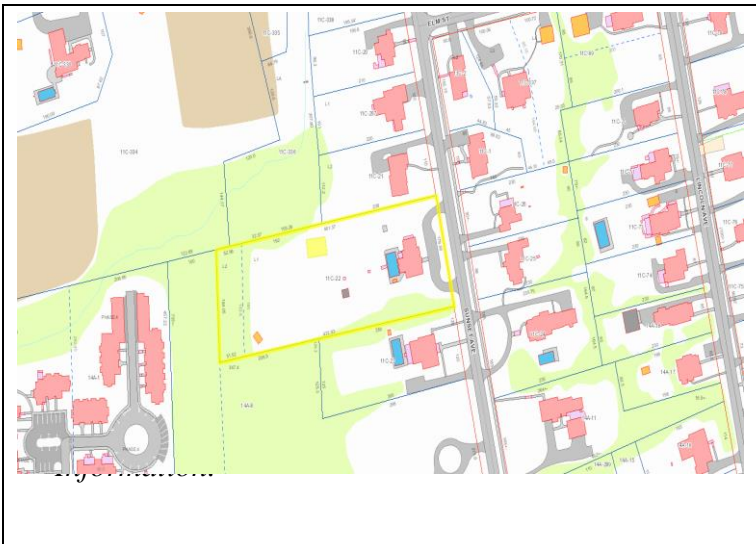
Acreage: 1.95 acres

Setting: On an exceptionally deep lot in a residential neighborhood.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Steve Bloom

Organization: LHDSC

Date (09/ 2015year):

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

58 Sunset Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E

AMH.141

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 large hip-roofed house is a good example of the Craftsman style with Colonial revival overtones. The wide overhanging eave supported by exposed rafter ends (repeated on the entry porch) and the multi-pane sash-over-sash with one large pane are characteristic elements of Craftsman style. Although the style was popular country-wide, there are very few examples in Amherst.

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 Street was laid out in the early 1890's between Elm and Amity, and extended to the agricultural college between 1902 and 1916. This house lot was originally a portion of the Elijah Boltwood Farm that comprised 69 acres and 88 rods of land, as described in the deed recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 238, Page 105.

This house probably appeared during the growth of the street in the early 20th century after the initial row of houses on the east side between Elm and Amity had been built. Residents at that time were professors, entrepreneurs, a writer, and some workers.

This house was owned by Ella Frances (Hall) Pray (1878-1956) and Fry Civile Pray (1882-1956) between 1922 and 1928. Mr. Pray graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1906, and Mrs. Pray was a librarian at Amherst. They were married in Amherst on August 19, 1908. He was a chemical engineer who headed a combine of sugar plantations in Cuba. They had three children: Francis C. (b. 1909), Martha (b. 1910), and John (b. 1913).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wedding Announcement, "Married At Amherst," *The Washington Herald*, August 20, 1908 edition.

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

Biographical information on Ella and Fry Pray at ancestry.com, consulted 18 September 2016.