

# 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*):  
Lincoln Sunset National Historic District

**Address:** 155 Sunset Avenue

**Historic Name:** James L. Strahan House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1924

**Source:** newspaper article

**Style/Form:** bungalow

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: poured concrete

Wall/Trim: stucco/wood

Roof: composite shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
unfinished attic 2002

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** .38 acre

**Setting:** Adjacent to the former Amherst Creamery, which is now a commercial office building.

Photograph



Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

155 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 is a one-story hip-roofed structure whose entrance--recessed under an arch-- is in the east corner of the south facade, rather than on the street-facing west side of the house. There is another door in the north facade, near its western edge. A dormer is located above it. Windows are in a variety of sizes and configurations. The house is considerably deeper than it is wide, a condition not visible from the street. An attached garage is at the rear.

## 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.*

An article in the *Springfield Republican* in January 1925 listed the individuals who built new homes in Amherst the previous year. Among them was James L. Strahan, whose house was estimated at \$9000. Strahan (b. 1889) was an Assistant Professor of rural engineering at the MAC. He only lived in the house a few years. In 1928 and in the 1930 US Census, the owner was Harry B. Hess (1869-1951), a sheriff, who shared the property with his wife, Alice (née Lannon). They continued to appear at this address in the City Directory of 1936.

By 1940 the owners were Kenneth Lloyd Bullis (1906-1996) and his wife Katherine M. (1908-1995). He was a Professor of Veterinary Science and head of the department at the State College (later the University of Massachusetts). She was a laboratory assistant at the school and a member of both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. They were still living at 155 Sunset Avenue through at least 1960. In 1940 they had a lodger, also a teacher at the State College.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

US Census 1930, 1940

Amherst City Directories 1925-1960

Town of Amherst property card 2016.

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