

# 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*):  
Prospect-Gaylord National Historic District

**Address:** 52 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** Charles and Zeruah Deuel House

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

Original: Two-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** c. 1865

**Source:** Massachusetts State Census, 1865; City Directory  
1869 and US Census 1870

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/Italianate

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: granite

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Carport added 2015.

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

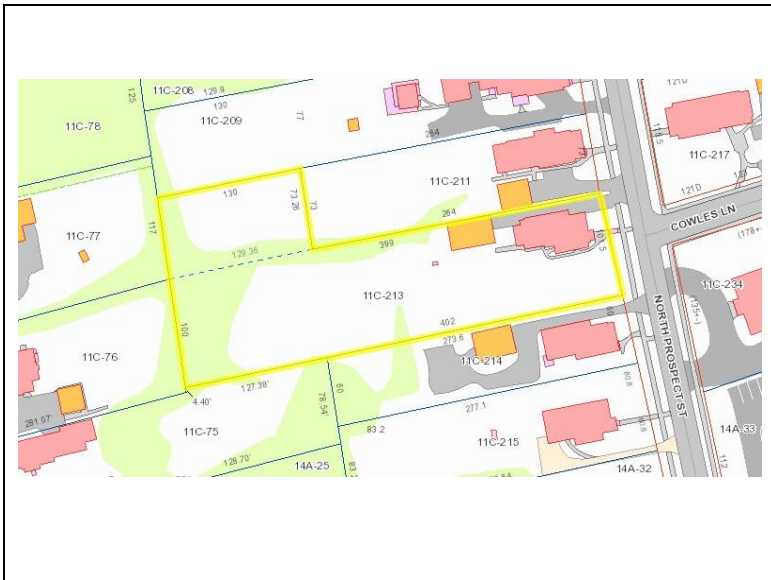
**Condition:** excellent

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

**Acreage:** 1.15 acres

**Setting:** The house stands opposite the T-junction of North Prospect Street and Cowles Lane in a residential neighborhood. The Parish Hall of St. Brigid's Church is diagonally across North Prospect Street. The property includes a large rear yard.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

52 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

H

AMH.220

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.*

The Charles F. and Zeruah Deuel House is a two-story, wood frame building bearing both Greek Revival and Italianate features. Basically the house is Greek Revival in its form and some details; it has a pedimented front-gable roof and a sidehall entry. The front door is flanked by sidelights (originally of colored glass). The bracketed window hoods and bracketed entry on the east facade are Italianate characteristics. There is a short porch over the front door, supported by turned supports, with dentil detail above. Similar supports are used on a side porch at the east end of the south facade. A modern porch has been created on the west end of that facade.

A two-story carriage barn (AMH.1244) with an open-sided loggia on the third level is located at the rear (west) of the residence. The barn faces east and is capped by a front-gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal. Its walls are clad with painted vertical board sheathing. A paneled overhead track door on the east facade originally provided access to the building, was returned to its original location when the carriage house was inslated and resided. The current entrance door to the carriage house is a new door that matches the original and located in the same place as the original. A metal-frame awning window is located in the gable. A carport was constructed in 2015.

This property is part of the Prospect-Gaylord Historic District and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 4 February 1993.

## 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.*

North Prospect Street began to be developed during the late 1850s. Osmyn Baker bought Dr. Rufus Cowles's farm around mid-century. He and Lewis Delano, who owned the land to the west, put in a new street (replacing an earlier lane slightly farther west) that went initially only from Amity Street to about where Cowles Lane is today. Baker sold a portion of his land (north of today's Cowles Lane) to Leavitt Hallock, who laid out the lots, extended the new street to its current northern extent, and opened the street to the public around 1855. Hallock sold a 100-rod lot to Zeruah S. Deuel, Charles Deuel's wife, in October 1860.

No houses appear on the street on an 1854 map, but by 1860 there were two: today's #44 and a double house at today's #38, no longer extant. On the 1873 Beers map, all the west-side lots from 32 North Prospect to the north end of the street, including today's #52, were filled.

The 1865 Massachusetts State Census shows Charles Deuel, his wife, and eight-year-old son Charles F. living next door to a number of people, including Edward and Emeline Williams and their children (no street addresses are given.) The 1869 Amherst City Directory shows Charles Deuel living on North Prospect Street (no house number given). Although the 1870 Census does not give street addresses, the Deuels are listed next to Emeline and Lucas Williams. A "Mrs. Williams" lived at 58 North Prospect in 1873, according to the Beers map. Taken together, these documents suggest that the Deuels were probably at #52 North Prospect by 1865.

Charles Frederick Deuel (1823-1897), one of several druggists in Amherst, had a shop at 7 Phoenix Row and, after 1886, in the Amherst House block. The Phoenix Row drugstore, on South Pleasant Street, was the site of one of Amherst's first telephones, installed in December 1882.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

52 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

H

AMH.220

Born in Cambridge, New York, Deuel moved to Amherst and became a druggist. He married Zeruah S. Utley (1838-1915) in Chesterfield on 18 January 1854. They were living in Amherst at the time of the 1860 Census, with a son, also named Charles F. (1856-1944). Their household in 1870 included three children (Frank, b.1862, and James Edward, 1873-1926, had joined brother Charles) and a 14-year-old black female servant from North Carolina. Charles Sr. was a member of the Vestry at the founding of Grace Episcopal Church in 1864, and was an Officer and Director of the Amherst Gas Company. Deuel Senior died in Amherst on 2 August 1897.

The younger C. F. Deuel, known as Fred (d. 1944), lived on in the house following his father's death. He is recorded there with his wife Lucy and widowed mother in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses. He, too, entered the family drugstore business. He was a member of the Class of 1876 at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (later University of Massachusetts). He served on the Board of Directors of the Amherst and Sunderland Street Railway Company. Only Fred and Lucy were at this address in the 1920 Census. The 1930 census indicates that the property was owned by real estate agent Howard W. Burnett.

Charles Deuel, Sr., had a tenement (rental property) built, in 1889-90, at what was then 10 and 12 South Prospect Street, one lot in from the SE corner of the intersection with Amity. Roswell Field Putnam was the architect. That property was torn down in the early twenty-first century to create a parking lot.

James Edward Deuel and his wife Jennie lived at 154 Lincoln Avenue (AMH.158) in 1900 -1910.

The property is currently occupied by three generations of a family.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 197/297-8, Leavitt Hallock to Zeruah S. Deuel, 25 October 1860. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

<http://www.americancenturies.mass.edu/collection/itempage.jsp?itemid-13317>, "Charles Deuel Druggist Amherst Mass" bottle. Accessed 10/3/2013.

Map: Beers, F.W., "Amherst; North Amherst." New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1873.

Massachusetts State Census, 1865.

U.S. Census 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

Amherst City Directories, 1869 ff.

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

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Prospect Gaylord Historic District, Amherst (1992), Section 8, pp. 12, 14.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Inventory Form Continuation Sheet, 2014, for both house and barn.

For a photograph of the interior of Deuel's drugstore, see Lovell, John L., 1825-1903, "Deuel's Drug Store," *Digital Amherst*, accessed May 16, 2015, <http://www.digitalamherst.org/items/show/139>.

Regarding the tenement on South Prospect Street: *Amherst Record*, 1 May 1889, p. 4; 17 April 1889; 15 May 1889; 20 October 1890, p. 5. *Record EXTRA*, 30 November 1889, p. 2, col. 1. Photographs of the house can be found with property records at Amherst Town Hall. It was included in the 1988 MHC Inventory.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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52 N. Prospect Street in 2016, from the southeast. The new porch can be seen at the left.