

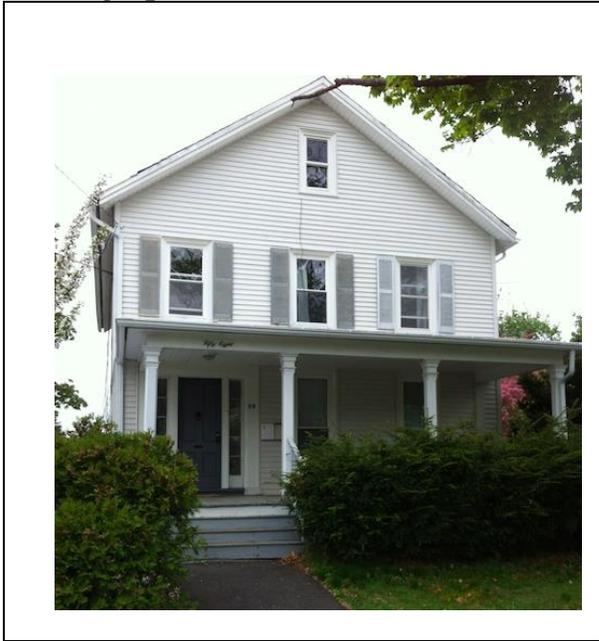
# FORM B – BUILDING

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 Register District

**Address:** 58 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** Edward & Emeline Williams House

**Uses:** Present: Two-Family rental Residence

Original: Residence

**Date of Construction:** c. 1861-62

**Source:** 1861 and 1863 deeds

**Style/Form:** Victorian vernacular

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite facing

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Two-car garage

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

The property was converted to a two-family in 1984.

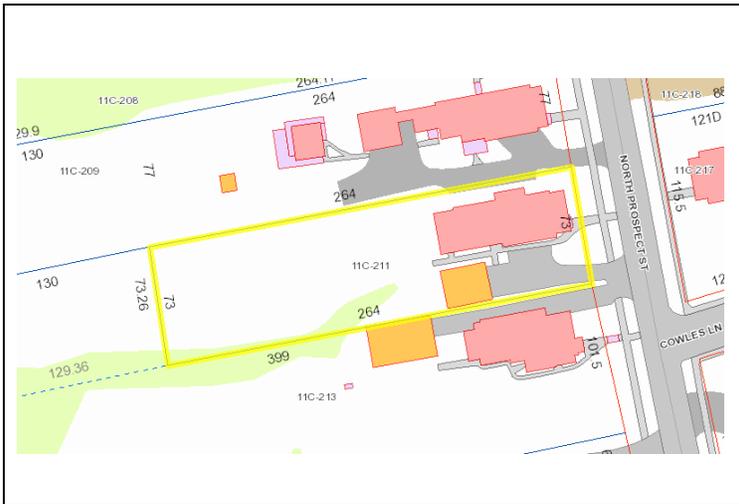
**Condition:** fair; garage in poor condition

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

**Acreage:** .45 acres

**Setting:** This house sits on a tree-lined residential street, near the juncture with Cowles Lane. It has a deep back yard.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHSC

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

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 front-gabled sidehall plan house follows the standard form popular in Amherst c. 1830-1880. It is very similar to #62 North Prospect (neighbor on the north side), although synthetic siding may have obliterated many of its original architectural details. The veranda, which runs the full width of the east façade, has chamfered supports. The front door is bordered by sidelights. The rear portion of the house, though still two stories, is lower in elevation than the front. Open porches run along the west end of the south facade on both levels.

The two-bay garage, which parallels the house on its south side, is twentieth-century in date. It has a slate roof, and a window in the north end.

This property is part of the Prospect-Gaylord Historic District, which was designated a National Register Historic District 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.*

Enos D. Williams acquired a portion of the former Rufus Cowles farm from Osmyn Baker in the 1850s. There are no houses on North Prospect Street on an 1854 map, but the street began to be developed over the remainder of the decade. In 1861 Enos Williams bought two lots from Leavitt Hallock, who had recently put in a northern extension of North Prospect Street to Hallock Street. These were probably the land at 58 and 62 North Prospect, and they may have been bought with the proceeds of his sale that year of the houses he had built at 44 and 38 North Prospect. Enos Williams then had houses built on these two new lots, and sold this property to Mrs. Edward Williams, with house and barn, on 1 August 1863.

The 1865 Massachusetts State Census lists Emeline (1821-1896) and Edward (c.1815-1865) Williams living in Amherst with their children, Hartley (b. 1844), a tailor; Alice (b. 1848), and Frank (b. 1857). There are two other Williamses—Agnes (b. 1843), and Lucas (b. 1824), a merchant tailor--in the household. In addition, there are five others, including a painter, with different last names. Edward Williams was a house-builder. It is not clear whether he was related to Enos D. Williams, who had caused the house to be built, and/or whether Edward had taken part in the house's construction. This household is listed next to the Deuels, who can be associated with #52 North Prospect, so the Edward Williamses were probably living next door at today's #58 in 1865, although no street addresses are given.

The 1870 US Census, which likewise gives no street addresses, finds the widowed Emeline, Lucas (Edward's brother), Hartley and his wife Mary, and Frank (an "invalid") listed near the Deuels and the Swifts, who are associated with #52 and #57 North Prospect. A student and a 17-year-old female named Ella Buckland also shared their household. The 1873 Beers map shows "Mrs. Williams" residing at this address.

B. Hartley Williams, the eldest son of Emeline and Edward, bought a lot farther south, at what became 27 North Prospect, in 1882 and commissioned Roswell Field Putnam to design a house for himself and his wife. His house was completed by 1884. It was torn down in 1950 to create a parking lot for Louis's Market. Hartley was a tailor who worked in the "Williams Block" on Merchant's Row until 1888. The following year he became the town's Postmaster, and still later in life a real estate agent. As tailors, Hartley and his uncle Lucas were connected with Oliver Pease, another tailor, who lived at the foot of North Prospect (today's #47-45 Hallock Street). Pease sold his business to B.H. Williams in 1865.

Emeline Williams bought land for development on the west side of Beston Street from Leavitt Hallock in 1863. It was probably her husband Edward's intention to build houses there for resale, but after his untimely death two years later, Mrs. Williams sold all but one of the lots. She later remarried, sold the last lot, and moved away from Amherst.

In the 1900 census, the house at 58 N. Prospect was owned by Nellie S. Roberts, described as a “capitalist;” her son Albert (b. 1878), a student (Amherst College class of 1899); and two daughters, Sophie and Mary Jane.

Among other owners were Esther K. (née Kellogg; 1852-1926) and Frank A. Hosmer (c.1854-1918). W.R. Brown published an admiring biography of Hosmer in the *Springfield Sunday Republican* in 1906. Hosmer had been president of Oahu College in Hawaii for a decade. After the dethronement of Queen Liliuokalani, he was elected a member of the provisional government, and for three years was chairman of Hawaii’s judiciary committee. “In 1900 Mr. Hosmer returned to Amherst...Last spring, he bought the old Wright house on North Prospect street, which he has transformed into one of the most pleasant residences in town,” Brown noted. Frank Hosmer was a trustee of the Massachusetts Agricultural College and State Representative in 1909-10, among many civic responsibilities. He continued to represent Hawaii’s interests. The Hosmers appear at this address in the 1910 US Census, with a live-in servant.

Later owners included Frank S. Whipple (1868-1935), an ice-cutter; Ralph T. Sturtevant, and Charles and Marion S. Dubois.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

1860 Map

1865 Massachusetts State Census

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

Beers Atlas map, 1873

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

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 214/76, Enos D. Williams to Emeline Williams, 8/1/1863 for \$1750, including house and barn; also Book 831/443; 945/179; 981/227; 9124/267. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

Amherst City Directories, 1927-1954.

Amherst Street Lists, 1900 ff.

Brown, W.R., “Frank A. Hosmer,” *Springfield Sunday Republican*, 31 August 1906. Clippings of this and other articles about Hosmer in the same journal (9 May 1908, 1 August 1908, 5 September 1908) are included in Volume I of the W.R. Brown scrapbooks kept in the Jones Library Special Collections.