

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*):
Prospect-Gaylord National Register District

Address: 96 N Prospect Street

Historic Name: Sanderson Sanitarium

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Rental

Original: Sanitarium

Date of Construction: ca. 1925

Source: Tax records

Style/Form: Craftsman?

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: modern composite

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Converted from barn c. 1925

Condition: fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

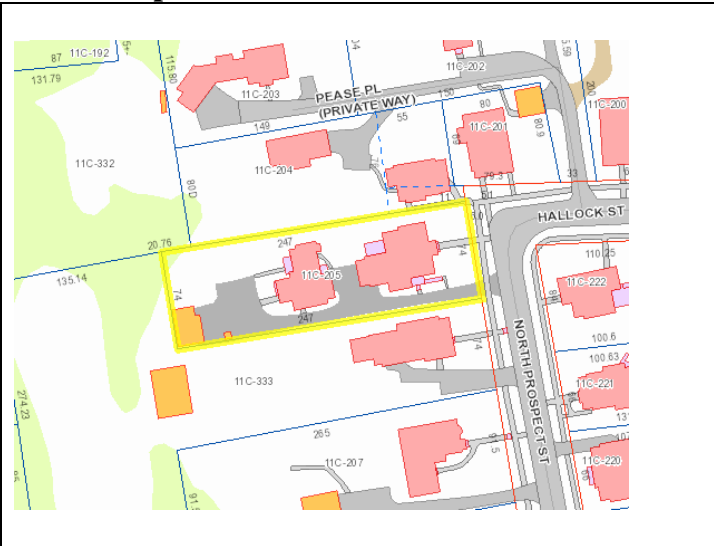
Acreage: .42 (with #94)

Setting: This building occupies the rear of the plot on which #94 N Prospect stands. It is part of the same property. Please see Form B for #94.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): June 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

96 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.208

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 three-story building is a converted barn, designed to house sanitarium patients. Its style is difficult to define. The east façade, facing the rear of #94 N Prospect, has a center gable and, on its southern end, two prominent porches, one above the other. From the west, it has a gambrel roof with shed dormers on both flanks. There are paired windows in the gable and on the story below. The south façade features dormers that break the roofline on either side of the projecting gable. On the north façade there is a projecting square bay; it has a short covered porch along its western flank. Every effort has been made to maximize living space within this purpose-designed utilitarian building. There is virtually no ornament around windows, doors, or porches. Modern exterior emergency stairs mar the building's appearance.

For a description of the garage, see Form B for 94 North Prospect.

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.

Dr. Mary Sanderson bought the property on which this building stands in 1923, with a house and barn. She was taxed in 1924 on the front house (valuation \$5250), the barn (\$4000), and the 80-rod lot (\$1000). It must have been a sizable barn to be given such a high valuation. In 1925 she was taxed not on the barn, but on a second house, also valued at \$4000. An article in the *Springfield Republican* (25 January 1931) gives the history of the Rangeview Sanitarium. It reports, "In recent years the barn on the North Prospect Street property was remodeled into an annex and the entire outfit now houses 15 beds." This makes it clear that both 94 and 96 North Prospect were part of the sanitarium. According to this article, Dr. Sanderson sought to create "a center for the treatment of human ills, where the first thought is always one of humanity rather than financial reward." It goes on to state that Dr. Sanderson employed hydrotherapy in the treatment of her patients.

Following Mary's death in 1931 her niece, Alice A. Sanderson, who had been the business manager, took over management of the sanitarium and promised to keep it as her aunt had begun. At that time it employed three regular nurses plus special nurses as needed. The sanitarium continued in operation until the summer of 1939. In February 1941, 96 North Prospect was sold to the Major family, along with #94. The two buildings remain part of the same property and have changed hands in tandem ever since. Please see Form B for 94 North Prospect for further history.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Town of Amherst tax records for Mary S. Sanderson, 1924 and 1925, Jones Library, Amherst, Special Collections. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for tax research

"Amherst Appreciates Sanderson Sanitarium," *Springfield Republican*, 25 January 1931.

For further references, please see Form B for 94 North Prospect Street.

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Rear view of 96 North Prospect