

# 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:** 74 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** Henry Holland House

**Uses:** Present: Non-Profit group home

Original: Single-family Residence

**Date of Construction:** c. 1866

**Source:** Deed, 1865 State Census, 1870 Census, 1873 Beers map.

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: synthetic siding/wood

Roof: metal

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Carriage house demolished c. 2005

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

24 x 40 ft addition at rear (west), 2003

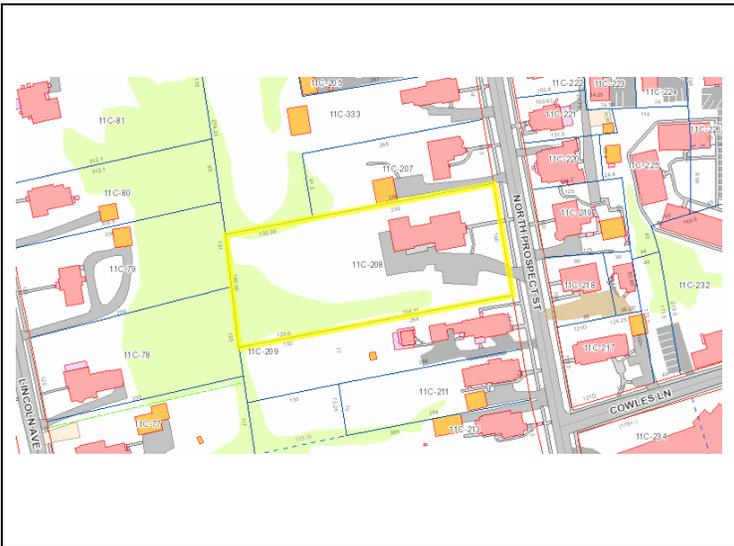
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 1.39 acres

**Setting:** This house sits on a large lot, well back from the street. It is in a residential neighborhood of homes mostly built in the period 1855-1900.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

74 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 large square-plan house with a simple hipped roof is one of the finest of about 20 Italianate residences in Amherst. Over half of these are in the Whitney-High Street and North Prospect-Lincoln areas. Those closest to the town center are the larger, more ornate examples. This two-story three-bay residence is one of the few with a cupola and until recently still had a balustrade above the entry porch. Set back from the public way, this is the only house on Prospect to delineate between the public and private domains, an issue critical to proponents of nineteenth-century picturesque architecture. There is a bay window on the first floor, punctuating the south façade. The original house included a two-story extension at the rear (west), lower in overall height than the main block. A further 24 x 40-foot extension was added to the west, behind the original one, in 2003.

The modern siding has obscured much of the original architectural detail, but paired heavy brackets support the shed roof over the bay window and can be seen under the overhanging eave of the front block. A projecting bay on the north façade also has double brackets above it.

The short front porch over the center entry sports paired brackets and articulated rectangular supporting piers. The porch lintels end in graceful shallow curves. The front door is framed by sidelights and has a horizontal rectangular light above it.

A "Stick Style" carriage house noted in the 1988 architectural survey, which had been converted into a two-story dwelling unit, was demolished around 2005.

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.*

This house appears on the 1873 Beers Atlas map and 1886 Bird's-Eye View as the property of Henry Holland (1831-1888), an Amherst merchant and owner of the Holland Block on Main Street. He continued a grocery, paint and hardware store begun by his father, Seneca Holland, in 1832. Henry Holland became involved in the family business in 1859 and continued in it until his death in 1888. He was active in city affairs, serving as officer of the Ornamental Tree Association; librarian of the Agricultural Library, which was kept at the Holland store; and chief engineer of the Amherst Fire Department (1878-1883).

Leavitt Hallock deeded the lot on which #74 now stands to Seneca and Henry Holland in 1864. The house must have been built shortly thereafter, but the extended Holland family does not appear to be living there in the 1865 Massachusetts State Census, although street addresses are not given. In the 1870 U.S. census three generations of the Holland family were living there, including two grown sons--one with his own family--a servant, and a Holland store employee. Although this census gives no street addresses, the Hollands are listed near Thomas and Jeremiah Young, who owned homes nearby on North Prospect Street at the time.

Henry Holland's widow, Hannah (née Clark; 1835-1922), described as a "capitalist" in the 1900 census, continued to live in the house until her death in 1922. Two sons, Edward Bertram and Harry (Henry) Dickinson Holland, and their wives and children

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lived with her for much of the time. Harry (b. 1864), after attending the Massachusetts Agricultural College, continued in the grocery and hardware business. He married Mary L. Ingram in 1887 and had a son, Henry L.

Edward B. Holland (1872- 1953) attended Boston University and then earned the first graduate degree in chemistry from Massachusetts Agricultural College, the predecessor of the University of Massachusetts. It was an M.S., awarded in 1898. Edward went on to join the chemistry faculty at the MAC and continued to live at 74 North Prospect. He married Lillian May Smith in 1902. He was still living in the house in 1948.

In the following decades the house was converted to institutional use. According to City Directories, It housed the Pioneer Valley Home for the Aged in 1954 and 1960; the Amherst Country Day School and Nursery in 1968; and, from 1975 to the present, has become known as the ABC House—for A Better Chance, a program that makes it possible for talented inner-city children of color to attend college preparatory high schools. The ABC students attending Amherst Regional High School live at 74 N. Prospect with adult mentors.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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

Massachusetts State Census, 1865

Beers Atlas map, 1873

Bird's-Eye View of Amherst, 1886

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds: Book 222/338 and 226/172 Leavitt Hallock to Seneca and Henry Holland, Sept. 22, 1864; 848/402; 1115/321; 1397/184. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

Amherst City Directories, 1885-1975.

Ancestry.com, records on various members of the Holland family, accessed June 2015.

On Henry Holland: Edward W. Carpenter and Charles F. Morehouse, *The History of the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts*, 2 vols. (Amherst: Carpenter & Morehouse Press, 1896), pp. 350, 362, 364, 367, 409, 449.

On Edward B. Holland: <http://www.chem.umass.edu/people/adams/pubs/umasschemhistoryneact.pdf>, accessed 6/21/15.

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

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