

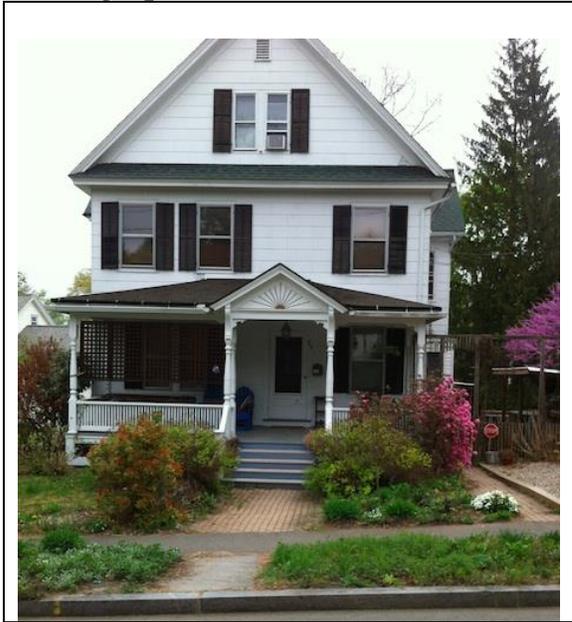
# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number  
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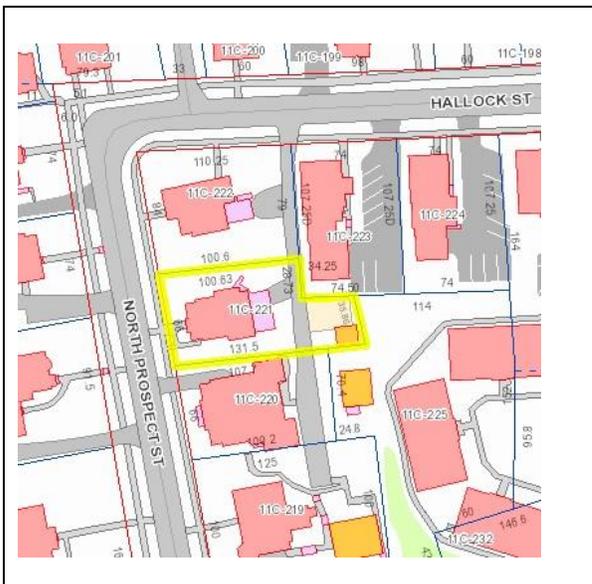
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Prospect-Gaylord National Register District

**Address:** 83 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** John E. Ostrander House

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

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1897

**Source:** tax records and Springfield Republican article

**Style/Form:** Victorian Eclectic

**Architect/Builder:** John Towne?

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick at rear

Wall/Trim: asbestos shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** garage

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

A wood deck was added in 1988.

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** .18 acres

**Setting:** On a tree-lined residential street. The houses on the east side of N. Prospect, including this one, have smaller lots than those on the west side. The land drops off steeply at the rear of the lot.

**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

83 NORTH PROSPECT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.211

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, late industrial house is typical of about fifty built in Amherst in the last few decades of the 19th century. The closed gable has a sloping cornice line designed to shed rain. The fenestration here is unusual, with the entrance off center, two windows to the north and only one to the south. The full-width front porch is topped with an entry pediment with a sunburst design, and is supported by turned posts. A wood deck was added on the east (rear) in 1988.

There is a small one-bay, one-story garage associated with this property, located across the alley at the rear of the house. It has an asymmetrical front gabled roof clad in asphalt shingle, and walls of vertical wood boarding. It appears to be of 20<sup>th</sup>-century vintage.

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.*

The land on which this house stands was part of Dr. Rufus Cowles's farm in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Descendants Fannie and Jenny Cowles sold a large parcel (92 square rods) on the east side of North Prospect Street, south from Hallock Street, to Frank A. Cadwell in 1895. Cadwell, a real estate developer, subdivided it into three lots, of which this was the middle one. The house at 83 North Prospect was the second of three houses Cadwell commissioned for these lots. The *Springfield Republican* reports that it was completed in 1897, at a cost of \$3000. It first appears on Cadwell's tax roll in 1898. In 1903 he sold the lot, with buildings, to John E. and Sarah C. Ostrander. John Ostrander (1865-1938) was Professor of Mathematics and Civil Engineering at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (forerunner of the University of Massachusetts) from 1897 onward. The couple, their son and daughter, and a Polish servant occupied the house in the 1910 US Census. A decade later, the Census lists the couple and John, Jr., who was a Navy officer and a pioneering naval aviator, and by 1930 it lists only the older couple. The Ostranders were still living in the house in the 1938 City Directory, but the house was sold at his death; Sarah Cowin Ostrander lived elsewhere in Amherst until her death in 1955. The next owners were Felicia and Clarence Jewett, Jr., who were still living at 83 North Prospect in the 1968 City Directory. He was a police officer, and she was a library assistant.

John Towne, his wife, son, and sister-in-law, appear in the 1900 US Census as a second family of renters under the listing for 31 North Prospect, today's #79. It is possible that they were instead living in the house newly constructed at today's #83, which is where he appears in the 1897 City Directory. Towne, from Connecticut, is, however, listed as a bridge contractor (not a house contractor) in that census and the City Directory. The basis for designating him as builder of #83 in the 1992 National Register Registration Form is not clear.

North Prospect Street was largely populated with houses during the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Smaller houses added as in-fill after 1875 gave the neighborhood a more suburban appearance. Those on this end of the street tended to be rental properties at first, occupied by laborers rather than the small business owners who constituted the earlier residents. Later, these homes were bought by individuals who intended to live in them, often by academics at the MAC as it expanded.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

83 NORTH PROSPECT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

U. S. Census, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950

“Annual Building Review,” Springfield Republican, 31 December 1897, p. 11.

Town of Amherst tax records for Frank A. Cadwell, 1895-1898, Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst.

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 475/23-24, Cowles sisters to Cadwell 1895; 586/371, Cadwell to Ostrander, 18 March 1903; 945/371, Ostrander to Jewett. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed and tax research.

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. 14, 21.

Amherst City Directories, 1897-1968.

On John E. Ostrander: *Index, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Massachusetts*, vol. 39 (1909), p. 28; [http://credo.library.umass.edu/search?q=subject:'Ostrander,%20J.%20E.%20\(John%20Edwin\),%201865-1938'](http://credo.library.umass.edu/search?q=subject:'Ostrander,%20J.%20E.%20(John%20Edwin),%201865-1938'); [http://www.e-yearbook.com/yearbooks/University\\_of\\_Massachusetts\\_Amherst\\_Index\\_Yearbook/1929/Page\\_43.html](http://www.e-yearbook.com/yearbooks/University_of_Massachusetts_Amherst_Index_Yearbook/1929/Page_43.html), accessed 6/26/2015.