

# 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:** 63 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:**

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

Original: Residence, perhaps created from a barn

**Date of Construction:** 1924-25 (residence)

**Source:** tax records for Herbert Field and Susan Whitaker

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone, concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): converted into a house in 1924-25.

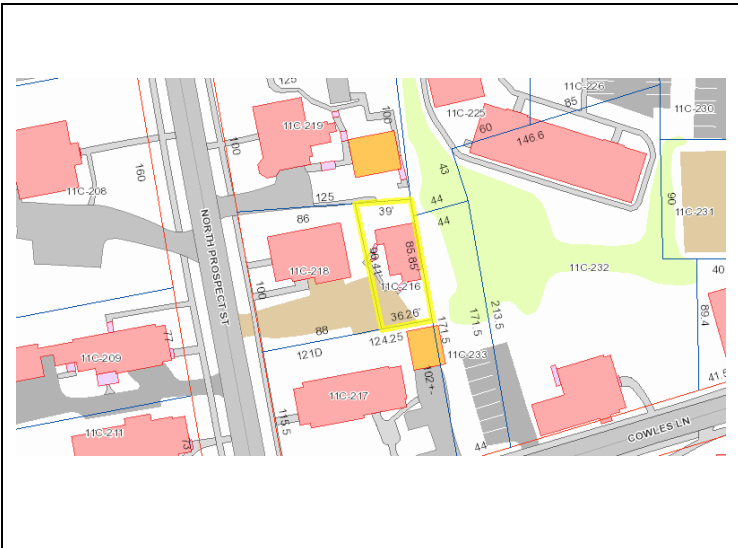
**Condition:** fair

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

**Acreage:** .08 acres

**Setting:** This small house sits behind #65 N Prospect (11C-218), with its long axis parallel to the street. It was designated a separate parcel in 2011.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

63 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.1079

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 house is a simple farmhouse, with a single-gable roof. It may originally have been an outbuilding of #65. It has no defining stylistic features. Small extensions on the south- and northwest corners add to the basic two-story rectangle and accommodate two entrances.

## 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 50-rod property at #63/65 North Prospect was sold by Levi Cowles to Jeremiah J. Young in 1871. Young, a furniture-maker whose brother and business partner lived at 82 North Prospect, was not taxed for a house that year but was taxed for one house the following year; that would be today's #65 North Prospect. Young sold the property to John E. Williams in 1887. Williams (c. 1853-1890) was the Editor of the *Amherst Record*, a weekly newspaper. His heirs sold the property to Herbert Field in 1920.

Herbert S. Field was taxed in 1921 for a house, a barn and the 50-rod lot. In 1924 he was also taxed for a second house, unfinished, on a 12-rod lot (the first house now being on a 38-rod lot), but no barn. It seems likely that the barn of 1921 had become a house in 1924-25. Susan Whitaker, who handled real estate transactions for the Williams family, bought the back property, today's #63, from Field in 1925. Her name also appears in deeds for 27 and 33 North Prospect-- the houses later torn down to form a parking lot--during the Williams family's ownership.

City directories from 1925 onward indicate an extra house near #65 (formerly #25), initially described as #25, unit 2; then 25 ½ and later, in the new numbering system, #63. Herbert S. Field, a janitor at Amherst College, and his wife Louise (née Louisa F. Whitaker), a dressmaker, were the occupants in the 1925-1948 City Directories. A member of the Leverett MA Field clan, Herbert died in 1948.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers Atlas map, 1873

U. S. Census 1930, 1940

Amherst City Directories, 1933-1948.

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 286/221-2, Levi Cowles to J. J. Young, 28 March 1871; 408/473, J. J. Young to John E. Williams, 9 April 1887; 765/211-2, Garven F. Williams *et al.*, to Herbert S. Field, 11 December 1920. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed and tax research.

Town of Amherst tax records for Herbert S. Field, 1921-25, Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst.

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