

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: 62 North Prospect Street

Historic Name: J.B. Ward House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residence, map business
Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c. 1861

Source: Deeds (1861 and 1863)

Style/Form: Victorian vernacular with Greek Revival/Italianate elements
Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: cut stone (granite), rubble now concreted
Wall/Trim: wood clapboard and vinyl siding/ wood
Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (1975)
Studio (heated), c. 2005; modern pump house
Major Alterations (*with dates*):

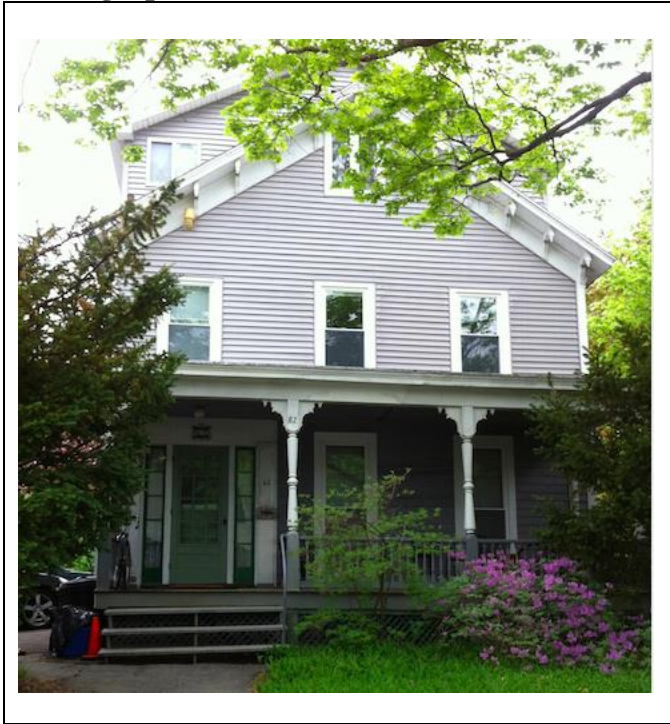
Condition: good

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

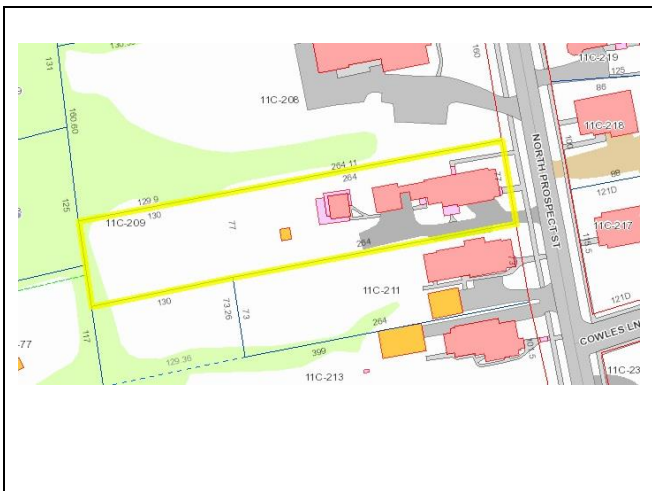
Acres: .7 acres

Setting: On a residential street, this house has a deep back yard.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): June 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

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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 two-story front-gabled sidehall house follows the standard "Victorian vernacular" form popular in Amherst c.1830-1880. It is quite similar to its neighbor to the south, 58 North Prospect, and also to 44 North Prospect. The Greek Revival door surround with full sidelights, however, together with the modest Italianate brackets under the roof, suggest the transitional nature of this house. A veranda runs the full length of the North Prospect Street (east) façade, turning the corner to the south, and there is an open porch of modern vintage at the SW (rear) corner. A half-story has been added over the east section of the original house. A shed has been incorporated into the house at the west.

The original barn, timber with a slate roof, was torn down in 2004, and a two-story winterized structure (wood with metal roof) was built on its footprint. This currently houses the owner's map-making business. The property also includes a modern two-bay garage (1975) and a working hand pump, housed under a shingled roof.

This property is part of the Prospect-Gaylord Historic District, which was designated a National Register Historic District on Feb. 4, 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 property on which this house stands was originally part of Dr. Rufus Cowles's farm, which Osmyn Baker bought around 1850. Baker sold much of the northern portion of the farm to Leavitt Hallock, who extended North Prospect Street northward beyond its prior terminus at today's Cowles Lane.

Enos D. Williams bought two lots from Leavitt Hallock in 1861, probably this and #58. He built houses on both. Lucius M. Boltwood bought this property from Enos Williams in 1863 for \$1750 and sold it to a retired farmer, J. B. Ward, in 1867 for \$3600. Ward is listed as the owner on the 1873 map. The 1870 census shows him as head of household and indicates that he boarded a teacher, a widow and her daughters, and a laborer. The 1880 Census, which, like the 1870 one, does not give street addresses, lists Ward and his wife Jane near the Deuels and the Marshes, other residents of North Prospect Street in its early stages of development. J. B. Ward died in 1896. His son, Wilbur H. H. Ward, and his wife Elizabeth were the owners in 1900 and 1910. Like many properties on this street, the house was held by two generations of the same family, in this case for nearly 60 years.

Wilbur Ward's executor sold the property following his death in 1921, to Lawrence R. Smith. Grunow O. Oleson and his sister Edie Oleson Field, who now resides in Leverett, lived in the house in the period 1942-1992.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Amherst city directories, 1927-1975

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Beers Atlas map, 1873

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 214/137, Enos Williams to Lucius M. Boltwood, 28 August 1863, \$1750; 246/227, Boltwood to John B. Ward, 9 September 1867, \$3600; 447/213, tract with buildings, 2 February 1892; 777/87, executors of Wilbur H. H. Ward to Lawrence R. Smith. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Prospect Gaylord Historic District, Amherst, 1993, section 8, p. 14.

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



Carriage barn with slate roof at 62 N Prospect, demolished 2004

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Studio, constructed on footprint of carriage barn, 2004.