

# 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

**Town/City:** Amherst

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

**Address:** 71 North Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** Ellery Strickland House

**Uses:** Present: 4-unit rental apartment/B&B

Original: Single-family Residence

**Date of Construction:** c.1880

**Source:** Deed, 1886 Bird's Eye View

**Style/Form:** Victorian eclectic

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, wood shingle/wood

Roof: enameled steel

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Carriage house, converted to 3 B&B rental units

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

**Condition:**

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

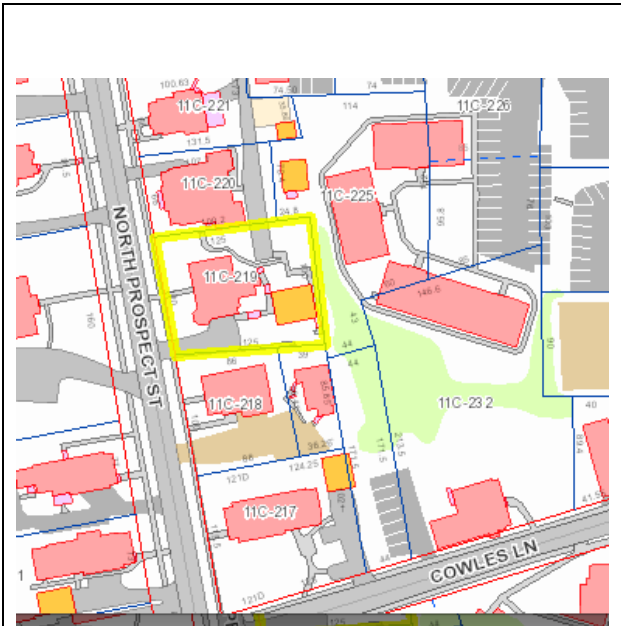
**Acreage:** .29

**Setting:** This house stands on a tree-lined residential street. Like other houses on the east side of the north end of North Prospect, it is on a lot that falls downhill to the east. An alley connects the rear of the house to Hallock Street.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

71 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.215

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 hip-roof cottage has Italianate bones, but the Queen Anne veranda, whose polygonal corner pavilion has a tent roof, was perhaps added later. The decorative band of scalloped wood shingles across the second floor façade is a “Shingle Style” feature, as is the use of plain wood shingle wall cladding on the second floor, over clapboard on the first. Altogether, the house is an unusual combination of elements.

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 for the first time on the 1886 Bird's Eye View of Amherst, recognizably in its present form. It is not on the 1873 Beers Atlas map. Jenny and Fanny Cowles sold the 50-rod lot to Kate Strickland in 1879 for \$500, a price that indicates that the house had not yet been built. The 1886 City Directory shows Kate's husband Ellery, a clerk at the furniture store of E. D. Marsh (who was then living at 44 North Prospect but would soon build a house of his own at 38 N. Prospect), living on North Prospect, though no house number is given. Ellery Strickland continued to live at 71 North Prospect at least until 1932, initially with Kate (née Litchfield) and daughter Elinor and, following Kate's death, with a second wife, Lillian (née Leonard). Ellery became manager of E.D. Marsh's estate and subsequently a funeral home director, taking on another aspect of Marsh's career. Lillian Strickland lived in the house through 1954 and sold it to Robert L. Shumway. In 1910 the Stricklands had a widow with her “own income” as boarder, and in 1930 they had a public school teacher as lodger.

In recent times the property has been a B&B and has offered suites in the main house for longer-term rentals. The two-story carriage house at the rear of the property was converted into B&B accommodation as well. It has lost its historic character.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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

U. S. Census, 1900, 1910, 1930

Beers Atlas map, 1873

Bird's Eye View of Amherst, 1886

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 350/401, F. and J. Cowles to K. Strickland, 27 August 1879; 928/357, 372; 1270/378, Lillian Strickland to Robert Shumway. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

Amherst City Directories 1886 to 1954

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Carriage barn at 71 North Prospect Street, now B&B accommodation.