

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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## Photograph



**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): N/A  
Amherst Center

**Address:** 39 Paige Street

**Historic Name:** Chesley Pettijohn House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** c.1889

**Source:** Amherst tax records, 1888-93

**Style/Form:** Farmhouse

**Architect/Builder:** N/A

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick / Concrete

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Gable/Hip' Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Shed Frame

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

Added porch (1998)

Added BAS & STP's (2006)

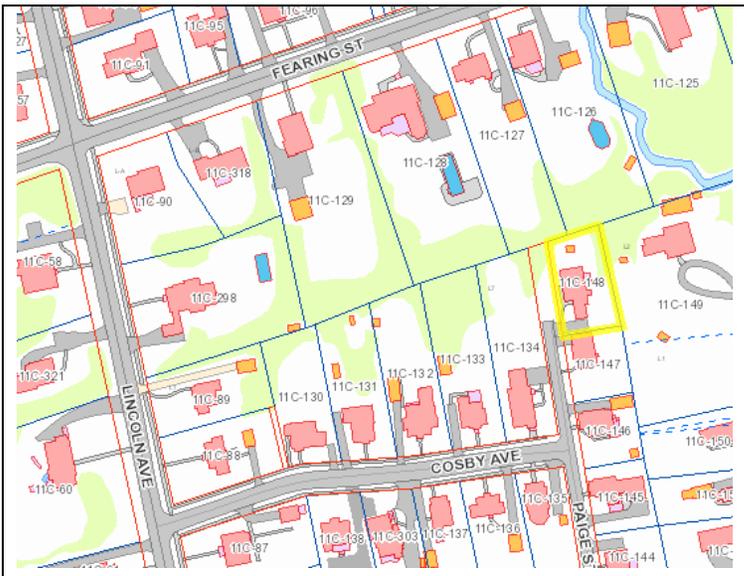
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.26

**Setting:** Residential street on cul-de-sac close to the downtown

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lauren Romag and Maurianne Adams

**Organization:** LSHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): October 2016.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

39 PAIGE STREET

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.*

The last house on the Paige Street cul-de-sac sharing its eastern boundary with the western border of 44 Beston which is also the last house on the parallel Beston Street cul-de-sac. 39 Paige is a large house with three major sections. The northernmost is a traditional vernacular New England farmhouse with front-facing gable, consisting of three ells or bays, the southernmost (to the right) the front door with two windows in the bays to the left and two unaligned windows on the second floor. There is an attic ventilation opening. This northernmost section of the house follows the vernacular 3-bay design of other houses on Paige and throughout the entire neighborhood.

The house has clearly had many additions over the years, all built on the right side of the original house – along Paige to the south. Like the other houses on Paige, the house once had an extension on its right side, set slightly back from the edge of the main house. This extension was at one point extended to become flush with the main house, a sloping roof (like a roof of a saltbox) transforms this two-story addition to a single story addition. Another single story addition extends the house further south on Paige Street. The house has three chimneys, one brick chimney at the center of the main house, a second brick one where the first addition meets the main house, and a third more modern metal one at the seam between the main house and single-story addition. Paige Street no longer extends to the front door of the house, but rather stops at the house's driveway on the right of the house.

## 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.*

Frank E. Paige bought an empty 1 1/4 acre lot [405/72] on the north side of McClellan Street in October 1886 together with his father, Theodore L. Paige, proprietor of Paige's Livery. Frank bought his father's interest on January 1, 1887 [406/216] and between 1887-1892 developed five house lots, the street and a double-house on an adjacent lot facing McClellan St at what is now #65-67. The street existed in 1889, was called Paige Street by April 1896, and accepted as a Town way in 1942. The 1889 date suggests it was named after Frank E. Paige, and not Professor James B. Paige who resided nearby and is credited by James Smith's *Record* (p. 68).

On July 5, 1905, Frank E. Paige deeded the house that was to become the last house on the Paige Street cul-de-sac, 39, (596/60) for \$850 to Chesley Pettijohn, a member of an African American family whose daughter Bessie later married into the African-American Bias family and thereby acquired the abutting property to the east, at 44 Beston (see historical narrative for 44 Beston St. between 1910 and 1987). Chesley Pettijohn's 1905 Deed property identified the property to the north as still belonging to W. D. Fearing; bounded to the east by the heirs John Bestin [sic]; to the south by Rose Wetherbee (at 31 Paige); and on to the west by heirs of Thomas Haley." The deed mentions only the parcel of land, no buildings or house, and retains a right of way on the western border of Paige Street.

The 1900 Census lists Chesley Pettyjohn (born 1847, age 52) as head of household, living on South Pleasant Street with his wife, Ella (born 1858, age 42), and 6 children ranging in age from 16 to 3 months – Bessie who was to marry into the Bias family was 13 in 1900 – and both parents and children were born in Virginia except for the baby. Chesley was a day laborer and his children were at school. The family is listed as "Black" in this 1900 Census, but "mulatto" in the 1910 Census which has them on Paige Street with four children at home: Ella, Theodore, Alice and Gladys, age 23, 19, 14 and 10). The 1910 Census lists Chesley Pettyjohn as a janitor at a Society House and daughter Ella (28), a cook in a private family. By the 1930 Census, Chesley and Ella are living only with Alice, who is listed as a housekeeper and the three are racially designated "Negro."

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By 1938, Ella was gone and Chesley living alone with daughter Alice M. Pettyjohn (listed in the 1910 but not the 1900 Census); Alice is listed in the 1940 Census as head of household, age 39, born in Virginia, and a music teacher owning her own business. She owned and lived at 39 Paige house for almost 30 years. By 1936, Bessie Pettyjohn, by then about 45, had married John Bias at 44 Beston and his unmarried daughters deeded their Beston Street home to her (see Narrative History for 44 Beston).

Alice Pettyjohn's ownership and residency in 39 Paige continued to December 1965, when it was sold by Gladys Pettyjohn Maynard to Frank B. Dempsey of New Salem [1476/629] on behalf of the estate of Luella Pettyjohn Maynard [Probate Court 280/158]. Gladys was one of the Chesley and Ella daughters, age 3 months in the 1900 Census, so 65 at the time of this sale. It then passed from Dempsey (by then, of Rockland, Maine) Carla I. Lacey and Jack M. Thompson, both of Amherst, in 1973 [1706/250]. In 1980, the property was acquired by Carla Ingersoll [2181/262]; in 1983, by Anne Fischel and Jean Reid [2372/51, 2389/71] and in 1985 by Jean Reid [2545/180]. In 1996 it was bought by Antony Cape and Mary Tibbets [4918/293] who appear to have carried forward remodeling such as building a new 12 x 18 family room, demolishing a shed and then building a 10 x 12 shed (2002-2004). In 2010, it transferred to Mary Tibbetts Cape [10205/103] the current owner.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

<http://gis.amherstma.gov/images/cards/943.pdf>

Amherst Directory of Residents  
Amherst Vital Statistics  
US Census Records  
Deeds  
Probate