

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

11C-145	Mt. Toby	E	AMH.
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Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Amherst

Photograph



Address: 19 Paige St

Historic Name: The Robert E. Till House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: c. 1888-89

Source: Amherst tax records; directories.

Style/Form: Traditional vernacular farmhouse

Architect/Builder: developer, Frank E. Paige

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown, likely brick with fieldstone below ground

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: N/A

Major Alterations (*with dates*): N/A

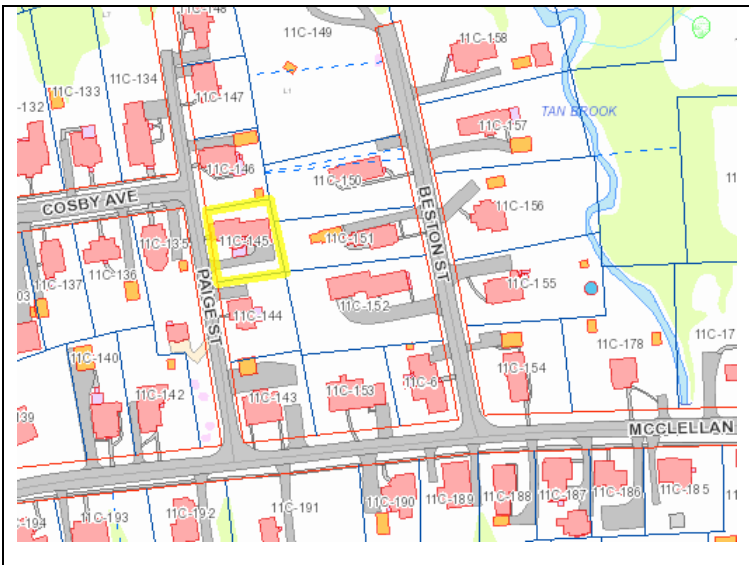
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0 .21

Setting: Residential

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lauren Romag; Maurianne Adams; Ed Wilfert

Organization: LSHDSC

Date (*month / year*): April-May and October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

19 PAIGE ST

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.

One-and-a-half story, standard New England farmhouse with two attached porches, one on the front of the house and another on the side. Front facing gable with right-oriented façade door. Front porch extends the length of the main façade. Two double-hung windows on each floor of façade. Single story extension off of right side of the building. House is in the same style as other Paige Street homes.

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. The son Frank bought out his father's interest [406/216] on January 1, 1887 and between 1887-1892 developed five house lots, the street and a double-house on an adjacent lot facing McClellan St. (#65-67 McClellan). Paige Street existed as a street in 1889, became 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). Two of the Paige St. lots were sold and the other three rented to African American families, named Hasbrook, Till and Pettijohn, who bought their homes in 1905.

Robert E. Till was renting the house on Paige by 1896 when he was employed by C. Deuel (a pharmacist) and was subsequently listed by the 1900 Amherst Directory as a janitor at Beta Theta Pi and living in a house on Paige. The 1900 Census lists Robert Till as Black, born in Massachusetts, age 31, living on Paige with his wife Amanda, Black, born in Virginia, age 27, their son Robert C. born in Massachusetts, age 3, and Till's sister-in-law (Amanda's sister) Ella Pettijohn, born in Virginia and age 13.

Till bought the house they were renting (8500 sq. ft) for \$850 in 1905 [595/253-4] (Paige had by then moved to Boston) but moved to Walnut Street within the year, selling the Paige Street property to Susie Suma in February 1906 [646/309-10] for \$1,000. Susie Suma and her husband Frederick were African Americans noted in local clippings about the AME Zion Church as active in the church. In this, they joined with other African American families in the neighborhood, most notably the Goodwins and Mattie Hall of McClellan, and the Hasbrooks on Paige.

Suma sold the property to Vernon and Dora Daley on November 22, 1949 [1059/378] while retaining life residence rights. Dora Daley sold it in November 1972 to John Grillo [1671/202], who later sold to Burton Franzman and Rachel Morton in 1978 [2056/202]. It passed to Rachel Morton in 1981 [2235/41], Joan Linden in 1996 [4950/304], Anthony and Christina Catterton in 2004 [8032/306] and Vaser and Maria Abunnasr in 2010 [10121/270].

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

<http://gis.amherstma.gov/images/cards/1023.pdf>

Amherst Directory of Residents 1888-1889, 1926-1927, 1938-1939

Tax valuations, 1888-1906;

U.S. Censuses 1900 & 1910

AME Zion Church collection of clippings and special occasion booklets are on file in the Jones Library Special Collections.

Continuation sheet 1

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