

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

AMH.225 Mt. Toby H AMH.225

Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Amherst Center

Address: 45-47 Hallock St.

Historic Name: Leavitt Hallock/Oliver Pease House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: by 1862

Source: Deeds

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: N/A

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding/wood

Roof: Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Two-car garage (1985)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

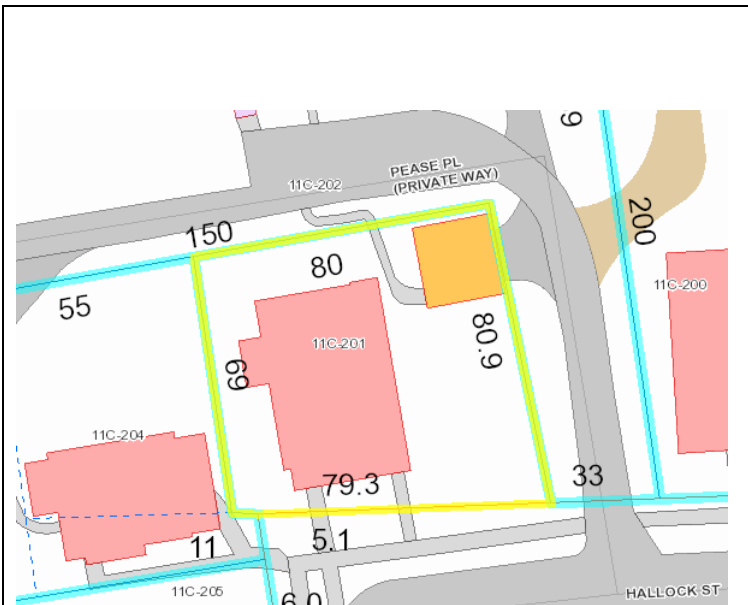
Acreage: .14 acre

Setting: At the end of North Prospect Street, where Hallock Street ends. In a tree-shaded residential neighborhood.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): February 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

45-47 Hallock Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E

AMH.225

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 is a front-gabled, side-hall plan house in Greek Revival style, one of some 50 examples scattered throughout Amherst. It has an oval oculus window in the gable, segmented into eight panes, and two full-length windows to the right (east) of the entrance to 47 Hallock Street. A porch spans the main façade, supported by piers that are approximately square in section. It continues along much of the eastern side, terminating in a flat-roofed, two-story projection that incorporates the entrance to the eastern section of the building, 45 Hallock Street. A small, enclosed porch emerges from the west façade.

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 land on which this house stands was originally part of Dr. Rufus Cowles' farm, which was bought by Osmyn Baker in the 1850s. Baker sold a large portion to Leavitt Hallock, who extended North Prospect Street from today's Cowles Lane to its present terminus and laid out Hallock Street as well. Hallock initially lived in the Cowles house on today's Cowles Lane, but he later built and lived in this house, today 45-47 Hallock Street. He sold the house to Oliver Pease, a tailor and dry goods merchant, in 1862, with a large amount of surrounding land at the "elbow" of Hallock and North Prospect Streets. Pease subdivided this land into several plots and sold the ones on which 94 North Prospect Street and 90 North Prospect Street now stand. It was not until 1910, however, that Pease's widow and sons sold the Hallock Street house and the remaining land. The buyers were William and Alice Reed. The Reeds sold the Hallock/Pease house to Arthur Johnson and his wife that same year.

Leavitt Hallock (1798-1875) was described by Hugh McGrath as "a man of marked energy and efficiency in public affairs, being Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature and holding various positions of trust in [Plainfield, Massachusetts, where he was born.] He removed to Amherst, Mass., to educate his sons, where he accomplished some successful business enterprises for the public betterment, and made donations to the cause of education; among them was the gift of some acres of virgin hardwood forest, within the village limits...which he donated to the trustees of Amherst College for the benefit of the public."

Hallock's wife, Elizabeth P. (née Snell), was a direct descendant of John Alden of the *Mayflower* and cousin of William Cullen Bryant. One of their sons, Leavitt H. Hallock, a member of the Amherst College class of 1863, became a minister, following in the profession of his grandfather, Moses Hallock.

Leavitt Hallock and family moved to Amherst about 1854. They appear there in the 1855 State Census and in the 1860 and 1870 US Censuses, where he is identified first as a farmer and later as a land speculator. He died at his son Leavitt H.'s home in West Winsted, Connecticut. "A persistent man, not easily daunted by obstacles, and rarely failed in what he undertook" was the summation of another biographer, Charles Dyer.

Oliver Pease (c. 1821-1893), a merchant tailor, his wife Elizabeth (b. c. 1830), and their son, Henry O., who entered his father's profession after a stint as a baker, are listed at the house in city directories in the 1870s and 1880s. Elizabeth lived on in the house after Oliver's death, with Henry and Harry B., an artist, or Charles, a student.

Arthur Johnson, the next inhabitant, was a plumber at Amherst College, and his wife Katherine was a clerk at the dry goods firm Jackson and Cutler. Various relatives are shown boarding with them in the 1921 City Directory, but in 1927 and 1930 they share the house with Franklin O. Douglas, also an Amherst employee, and his wife Minnie. By 1932, Howard Blanchet, a bookkeeper, and his wife Nora have moved in, and, in 1934, Henry and Tena van Roekel occupy the other half of the house with the

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Blanchets. Van Roekel, a veterinary pathologist affiliated with the Massachusetts Agricultural College, built a house at 17 Elm Street (AMH.149) around 1948.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hampshire and Franklin Express, 11 September 1863, p. 3: "Mr. Hallock has sold his fine dwelling, situated at the foot of Prospect Street, to Mr. Oliver Pease...."

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Map 1873

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds: Book 209/77 Hallock to Pease, 1 December 1862; 659/205-208, Elizabeth Pease to William and Alice Reed, 30 August 1910; 661/449-50, Reed to Johnson, 28 Nov 1910. Pease is taxed \$900 for the house in 1864. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed and tax research. Tax records for 1861-62 are water damaged, making it difficult to establish the precise date of construction of the house.

Massachusetts State Census, 1855.

U.S. Census, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900

Amherst City Directories and street lists

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

On Leavitt Hallock and family:

McGrath, Hugh J., *History of the Great Northwest and its Men of Progress* (Minneapolis: The Minneapolis Journal, 1901).

Dyer, Charles N. *History of the Town of Plainfield, Hampshire County, Mass...*(Northampton, Mass.: Press of Gazette printing co., 1891), pp. 151-153.

Documents at ancestry.com, consulted 20 February 2016.