

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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Town/City: Amherst

Place: Amherst Center

Photograph



Address: 30 McClellan Street

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1869 or 1880s

Source: property card

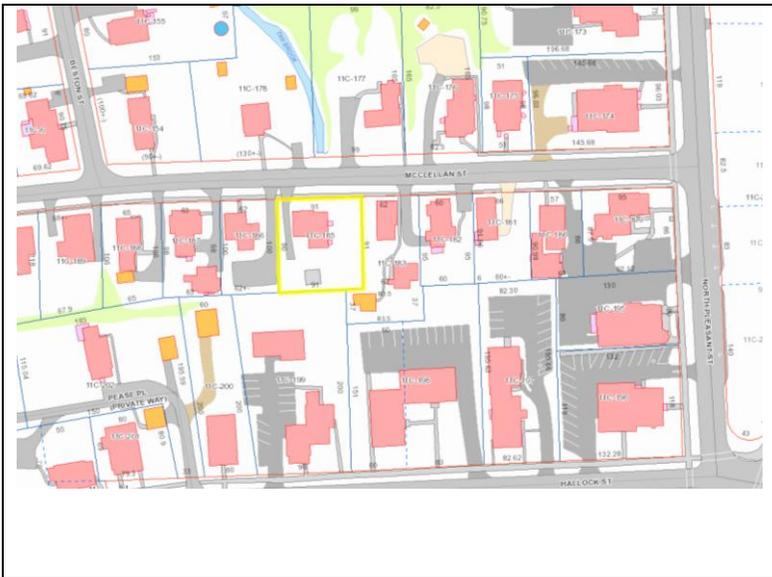
Style/Form: Farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick above grade and fieldstone below grade.

Locus Map



Wall/Trim: Wood; Wood Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Prior to 1973 ownership, a large garage at back of property on gray square still showing. See architectural description

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none known

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .0.2 acres

Setting: rural college town

Recorded by: E. Gouin; E. Wilfert, M. Adams

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

30 McCLELLAN 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.

On the right-hand (westerly) side of the house - the main house - is a New England vernacular farmhouse, similar to other area houses, such as those elsewhere on McClellan, Beston Street, Paige, and throughout the neighborhood. The L on the easterly side of the house was probably part of the original structure, in that it sits over a basement that is continuous with the westerly side of the building. The basement is only 5.5' high built with fieldstone, with a well in the easterly section directly below the kitchen sink on the first floor. Rear section is probably an addition since there is only a crawl space beneath. The present owner reports that in 1973 she removed the garage situated in the rear and, at that time, discovered two separate foundations in that structure; one to the west was floored with ABC bricks (portion of foundation has "28" suggesting built in 1928 with bricks showing the date, and the other to the east is a newer concrete flooring. There is a 16" gap between the two, suggesting two separate buildings. In 1973, before garage was taken down, there was a single roof over both foundations.

Enclosed porch to east of façade, all of which are in the same finish. The façade of the farmhouse side of the house has front door aligned left, with two windows to the right on first floor and two windows of second story, in the traditional farmhouse style typical of the neighborhood. Owner has report from previous neighbor that windows in the (now enclosed) porch to the front of the L on the easterly side of the house came from demolished Amherst College structures at the end of WWII. Two interior walls of porch are clapboard supporting the idea that the porch was originally open.

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 is one of the houses on the south side of McClellan bordered to the south by Tan Brook, a year-round watercourse flowing through this and other properties between McClellan Street and UMass, including lots on North Pleasant Street, Beston Street, Fearing Street and Nutting Avenue, as well as wooded lots west of North Pleasant Street. Its name derives from the tanneries which once flanked the stream during the early 19th century, the area of which is now part of Kendrick Park. The brook's sources lie to the north and east, and were piped underground in the 20th century, through the school grounds between Strong and Triangle Streets, beneath the East Pleasant Street commercial district, continuing under Kendrick Park and along McClellan Street. Until the arrival of piped sewerage, the brook served the north edge of the West Village for waste-water outflow. The basements of homes on the south-eastern end of McClellan flood during storms, as do their back yards. The current owner of #30 has noted where Tan Brook ran through the backyards until constrained by piping.

One and a quarter acres on the south side of McClellan Street were exchanged between James Courtney and Hugh Colwell [239/373-4] and [240/344] (both dated December 5, 1866) having passed from Leavitt Hallock without development. Courtney eventually put up four houses between 1869 and 1884 (now # 30, 42, 44 and 46) and lived in at least one of them. #30 was not built not before 1878 and sold with a building on April 7, 1882 [370/92] to Maggie [Margaret] Coleman, daughter of Matthew Coleman of 25 McClellan. The 1870 Census listed the family of Matthew (age 39, Irish laborer) and wife Ann (age 27, Irish, keeping house) with 6 daughters at school, his mother Margaret (age 61, Irish, at home) and his brother John (age 23, Irish, a laborer).

Matthew's daughter Maggie Coleman became a tailoress with the Pease Co (1886-7 Amherst Directory), having married Philip O'Gorman, a tailor, in 1883, the year following her purchase of 30 McClellan. But the Amherst Directory presents other addresses: 1886-7 Philip O'Gorman is a tailor for J.E. Kelly and living on Lessey; in 1888-9 he is a tailor with F.H. Budding &

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Co. and living on Beston; in 1892-3, he is listed as a tailor housed on McClellan. From 1895 through 1900, the year that he died at age 55, Philip O'Gorman was living at #11 (later #35) McClellan. John Coleman, Margaret's uncle (her father Matthew's younger brother) was in residence at #30 McClellan in 1900 and the 1900 Census lists wife Nora and daughter Nellie as living in John Coleman's household. Margaret (Coleman) O'Gorman died in 1916.

The trail for ownership of 30 McClellan then runs cold. There is a May 26, 1931 reference to a deed to Earl W. Flebut from Nellie M. Griggs for which the deed's book/page references were penciled in but are illegible. This illegible link is referred to in [887/28] dated May 3, 1933, in a quitclaim covenant from Earl W. Flebut to Patrick A. and Alice E. Connery for the premises that had been deeded to him by Nellie M. Griggs. Patrick Connery died May 27, 1947.

On December 11, 1957, Allan and Shirley Taylor bought the property [1211/57] and then on January 1, 1963 they conveyed it to Albert L. Jr. and Lynda Wrisley [1403/381] who conveyed the property to Vancourt M., Jr. and Alicia Hare [1580/364] on September 1, 1970m to (Vancourt M. Hare Jr. [1651/180] August 4, 1972, and to the present owner Judy Lewis Simpson on July 13, 1973 [1716/192], the current owner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Much of this information comes from current owner, Judy Simpson
As well as materials in Special Collections, Jones Library.