

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

Photograph



Address: 76 McClellan Street

Historic Name: James and Kate Sharkey house

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: c. 1862 - 1864

Source: Tax Valuations

Style/Form: Cape/farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick and fieldstone / concrete used with addition

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

Locus Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates): The back portion of the home appears to be a 20th century addition. Further changes ongoing.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .33 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

76 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

Original portion of house, closest to the street, is similar to 60 and 90 McClellan. One story side-gable structure, with second floor in the gable. Front façade is turned 90 degrees right from the street to open onto the driveway. Façade has centrally placed doorway with a window on either side. Across the façade is a semi-enclosed porch with simple squared posts with decorative brackets. A row of ornamental spindles decorates the top edge of the porch. A simple slat balustrade wall encircles the lower half of the porch. It seems that glass has been added to enclose the porch. Two evenly-stacked windows appear on the gable end facing McClellan. Central chimney. Two added skylights pierce the roof on the façade-side.

A larger front-gabled structure has been added to the back of the original house. Presently, this addition is clad in unpainted (stained) clapboard and has simple, even fenestration (four windows on each side). An enclosed porch extension bridges the gap between the porch on the main house and the addition.

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.

A 109 square rod lot at the northeast corner of Elisha Pomeroy Cutler's farm was occupied by James and Kate Sharkey and deeded from E.P. Cutler to James Sharkey (1826-1878) on November 10, 1855 [239/369] for \$498.87. Sharkey was already living there with wife Catherine (1827-1881) and daughter Mary, who (like so many on McClellan) was a tailoress (the term they used for female tailors). Sharkey was taxed for the house as early as 1861. The property was bought at public action by Annie M. Honney on August 29, 1895, for \$1230. from Mary E. Sharkey, the daughter, in her role as guardian of the Sharkey minors, James and Catherine Sharkey by then both deceased.

Annie M. Honney was the wife of James J. Honney, both Irish, James a hostler living in 1893 on Railroad Street; then listed in the 1895 Amherst Directory as a laborer living on Depot Street. In 1898 (three years after the Honneys purchased 76 McClellan) he was listed as a coachman working for Leonard M. Hills and living at 40 (became 76 with the 1937-8 renumbering) McClellan where they lived until 1915, when they (and other family members) moved to their new house at 42 (renumbered 84) McClellan. (See Narrative History of 84 McClellan.)

Annie Honney is remembered by long-term residents of McClellan as an extremely hard-working and resourceful domestic worker, recalled as a "white glove" house cleaner for houses on Lincoln Avenue and elsewhere. The story is told on McClellan that #84 (the house built by the Honneys on land divided from 76 McClellan) was "the Honney House" because Annie Honney was determined to build for herself a house as grand as the houses she labored in, on Lincoln Avenue.

In 1912-13, the Honneys divided the property at 76 McClellan to build the house at present-day # 84 McClellan Street. James V. Honney (at times spelled Honnay) was taxed for 40 McClellan only from 1897 through 1912. The new house is lightly penciled into the 1913 tax assessments, with both houses assessed in 1914, 1915 and 1916.

The property card for 76 is not online but can be viewed at the Amherst Town Hall. 76 McClellan is currently owned by Bob and Hwei-ling Greeney

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds

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Tax valuations
1873 map.
Amherst Town Directories

