

# 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

**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** Amherst Center

## Photograph



**Address:** 35 McClellan Street

**Historic Name:** Patrick Stack House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1867

**Source:** Town property form

**Style/Form:** Farmhouse with gingerbread decoration

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick with fieldstone below grade

Wall/Trim: Wood; Wood Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** shed frame

**Major Alterations (with dates):** entire porch and columns replaced in a different style

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .51 acres

**Setting:** rural college town

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

35 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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.*

One-and-a-half story house (both levels finished). Gable-fronted façade with right-aligned door, two windows to left on first story and one window on end. Edge of gabled roof on façade has intricate gingerbread decoration. Porch has been replaced in a new style with metal spiral columns and a metal corrugated roof.

## 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 property was sold by Luke Sweetser to Horace Henderson [198/235] on November 8, 1860, although Sweetser retained water rights for his cattle at the brook a few rods from the south side of the property, now in effect the back yard of #35 McClellan. Sweetser had the property and the water rights from Osmyn Baker in his deed of June 5, 1854.

Tan Brook is a year-round watercourse flowing through this and twelve other properties and bordering five others 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Henderson sold a tract to Sweetser on November 15, 1866 [241/86] bounded by property of Callahan, McGrath, and Harvey White to the northeast and, on January 11, 1867 [247/133], he sold 60 square rods, for \$220 to Patrick Stack, land bounded to the north "on land of my own bargained to and occupied by John Ingram, East on the tenement occupied by Matthew Colman, and owned by him or Luke Sweetser" – to the south by McClellan St "so called" and on the west by the John Callahan homestead. Since Patrick Stack died August 28, 1867 and his house appears on the 1868 tax valuation, it must have been built by him during 1867.

Patrick Stack's widow Eliza maintained the house with tenants for several decades until 1903. The African American machinist, Moses Goodwin and Mary Jane, his first wife, boarded with Eliza Stack in 1879-80, as indicated by the 1880 Census. After Mary Jane's death (1883) and a number of moves around town and remarriage, in 1898 Moses returned to McClellan Street and bought the house next door, now #43 McClellan Street. From 1895-1900, Philip O'Gorman appears to have lived there (see Historical Narrative for 30 McClellan).

In 1903, Eliza Stack's estate sold 35 McClellan to Michael Britt [568/395-6] who then sold it to his brother William E. Britt [568/10] for \$1120 land and buildings (his original purchase price), noting in the deed that this was the same parcel deeded to Patrick Stack by Horace Henderson. The Britt's were an important Irish family of stonemasons and laborers. In 1886-7, Michael Britt was working for the Hills Company and lived on Fearing. The 1895, 1896-7 and 1900 the Amherst Directory listed him as a stonemason with a house on Fearing near Pleasant, living with William E. Britt. 35 McClellan remained in Britt ownership for some time after 1903. The property was deeded in 1946 by Francis M. Britt (married) and William H. Britt (unmarried), their title by inheritance from their father William E. Britt to Gerald E. Britt [998/191-2] for consideration with quitclaim covenants.

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The property by then consisted of two tracts of land with building [currently #35 McClellan] bordered to the east by Coleman; to the north by Patrick Ward; to the west by Moses Goodwin. It had been enlarged northward in 1924 by the purchase of the east end of the adjacent Neenan property on Beston Street [804/111] to the rear of Beston Street addresses #15 and 17. The north half of this extension was subsequently sold and joined to the property now 314 North Pleasant Street. [998/192] refers to two tracks of land, the second presumably being the land deed by Neenan to William E. Britt.

The property at 35 McClellan was deeded upon Gerald Britt's marriage to himself and his wife and Mildred Britt [2032/194] on June 26, 1978. The house was then conveyed to Joseph Lynn [8181/341] on March 7, 2005, when Gerald Britt and his family moved into the larger Goodwin house next door at #43 McClellan.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Deeds  
Tax assessment volumes  
Amherst Directories  
Census data