

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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Photograph



Town/City: Amherst

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

Address: 43 McClellan Street

Historic Name: Moses and Anna Goodwin House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: c.1887-1889

Source: Deeds

Style/Form: Traditional vernacular farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick with stone below grade

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding

Roof: Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

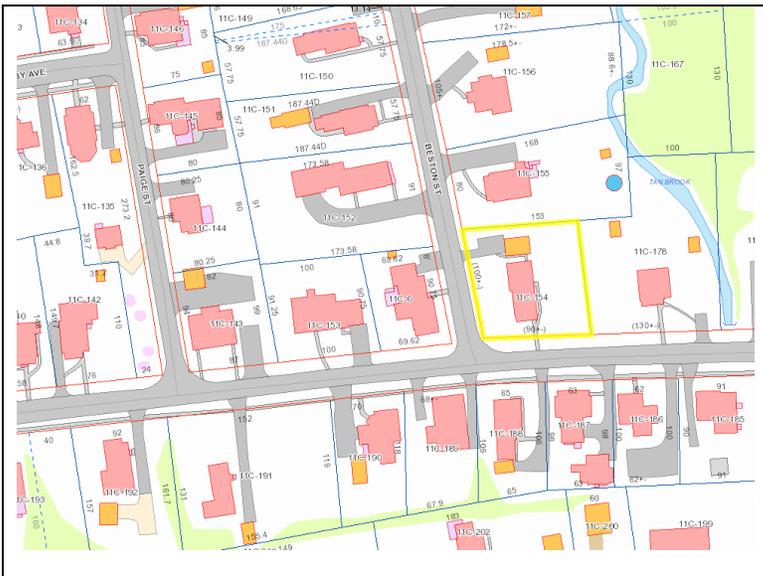
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .23 acres

Setting: Residential

Locus Map



Recorded by: S. Bloom; M. Adams

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

43 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.

This standard vernacular farmhouse style echoes numerous such houses throughout the neighborhood. Elements in common are 3-bay front, the first bay a left- or right-entrance door at the front, with two fenestrated bays to the left or right -- in this case, the door is to the right, windows to the left, with unaligned second floor fenestration and simple exterior. Roof over the square veranda with four supporting columns (capital carvings not visible from street) and open vertical railing. This is very similar to other traditional side-hall entrance farmhouses on McClellan and Beston Streets and elsewhere in the neighborhood, although the many such homes had no front veranda, judging from early photographs. This was comfortable, affordable housing for the second half of the 19th century.

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.

On April 16, 1861, Horace Henderson sold this 1/5 acre property to John Callahan for \$125 [201/42] who then sold it to Hugh Coldwell [Colwell] [215/123], of Northampton for \$600 on November 19, 1863. The property included two tracts and that the McClellan street location was not yet named. The Deed included references to abutters Lucas Williams, Pease, Sweetser and Hallock.

Hugh and Bridget Colwell then sold ¼ acre to Bridget Callahan [239/253] for \$150. on December 5, 1866, with no reference to any buildings or house on the property. In the next deed [425/92] dated May 4, 1889, Bridget Callahan "of Northampton recently of Amherst" sold the property to Margaret Reddy for \$1,000., noting that the land was situated on the north of McClellan – so that McClellan Street was its the southern border and Beston Street its western boundary; Mrs Patrick Stack was mentioned as an abutter as was Patrick Ward to the north. Evidence of a house on the property by 1889 can be inferred from the purchase price, but more important the Deed notes that the premises were held as a Homestead under MA law and that a \$350 mortgage from ASB had been folded into the \$1,000 purchase price.

Margaret Reddy held the property until August 24, 1898, when she sold the ¼ acre to Moses G. Goodwin [513/182], "Being the same premises conveyed to me" by Bridget Callahan [425/92] on May 14, 1889, further indication that a house had been built between 1866 and 1889. Moses Goodwin had been boarding next door at the Stack House during his first marriage (see Historical Narrative for 35 McClellan), but after living elsewhere and his second marriage to Anna Reed, the Goodwin family lived continuously at 43 McClellan until the death of the last of his three unmarried daughters, Ruth Goodwin, in 1994.

Moses Goodwin (1854-1923) was African American born in Columbia, SC, who came to Amherst at the close of the Civil War. He studied at one of Amherst's small private schools, worked as a machinist at the H.D. Fearing Hat Factory, and after an apprenticeship with machinist Porter Dickenson, went into business for himself as locksmith and bicycle repairman in a shop on Main Street from which he repaired clocks, jewelry, guns, sundry items as well as locks and bicycles. In the 1889 and subsequent Amherst Directories he is listed as jobber, repairer, lock and gun smith. He lived next door to 43 McClellan in the Eliza Stack house at 35 McClellan until the death Mary Jane Turner (from Brooklyn, NY), his first wife, 1883 (1880 Census) with whom he had one son, William. Moses is then listed on South Prospect until his second marriage in 1891 to Anna ("Ma") (Reed) Goodwin (born 1862 in Chattanooga, TN). Through the 1890s, the Goodwins lived on South Prospect until buying the house at #43 McClellan on August 24, 1898, and raising a family. The AME histories mention the Goodwin's five children – Steve, James, Ruth, Olive and Amy. (William, from the first marriage, is not mentioned.) The 1910 Census lists Amy L. (age 17), Olive C. (11), and Ruth W. (9) as the children living at 43 McClellan.

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Moses was an originating Trustee for the AME Zion Church, held the first Deed for the Church building. The entire Goodwin was tirelessly engaged in managing Church finances and logistics, as well as the musical and social community for the Church. In this, the entire Goodwin family was joined by other African Americans in the immediate neighborhood: Mittie Hall Anderson (across the street at 50 McClellan) and the Hasbrooks, Ruth Jenkins, Susie Suma, the Pettyjohns, and Mrs Dee – families especially named in various celebratory occasions at AME Zion Church captured in the papers at Special Collections. Mrs. Da Costa (Mrs. Dee, of 76 and 84 McClellan) had come to Amherst with her first husband, the Reverent Luther Jones – pastor of the AME Zion Church and then remarried after his death in 1938 (see Narrative Histories for 76 and 85 McClellan).

The Ruth Goodwin interview details the hours that Moses Goodwin put into running the Church as well as his bicycle and locksmith shop, while his wife, Anna Reed Goodwin (1869-1943), known as “Ma” to many MAC students, ran the Colonial Inn for 28 years as well as a boarding house on Pleasant Street next door to Aggie Inn for 19 years, where she fed 70-80 MAC boarders per day and employed many of them in the kitchen and dining room. They and their daughters were active in the formation, maintenance and culture of the AME Zion Church, along with their neighbor directly across at 50 McClellan, Mittie Hall Anderson (see Historical Narrative for 50 McClellan). Their daughter Amy was especially active in the AME Zion Church’s music program. Ruth and Olive trained as dieticians at MAC and Ruth worked in the College Infirmary, Olive at Amherst High School. Amy went to Howard University and the University of Washington to study music and pursued a career in music in Texas, New York, and Atlanta, before returning to Amherst. The church was renamed the Goodwin Memorial AME Zion Church in 1967 in Moses Goodwin’s honor. Among the Goodwin papers in the Jones College Special Collection is a deed [3043/52] from Moses Goodwin’s trust dated 1914 for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church [708/ 474].

Ruth Goodwin remained in the house until her death in 1984, when her estate sold it to their next door neighbor Paul F. Britt, with whose family Moses and his first wife and son had boarded in earlier years. The Administrator’s Deed [940015498 OR 4509/0052] reviews the history of the Goodwin ownership of the house. Moses G. Goodwin had died on March 6, 1923, and title passed to his widow Anna G. Goodwin and his three daughters, Olive C., Anna G., and Ruth W. Goodwin. Anna (Moses’ widow) died February 15, 1943, and the title passed to her three daughters. Olive died March 29, 1962, unmarried and without children. Amy died on December 9, 1973, also unmarried and without children. The 1994 Deed is an instrument of Ruth Goodwin’s estate.

The ¼ property and house were conveyed to Paul F. Britt in 1984 as described above, and then jointly to Paul F. and Paul R. Britt [10629/188] on August 16, 2011. Paul R. Britt is the current owner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps 1886, 1916

Amherst Street Lists and Directories

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

A history of Goodwin Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Amherst, Massachusetts (1825-2007), in the AME Zion clippings files of the Jones Library Special Collections

African American historical sites: Amherst, MA, (1995, compiled by African American Walking Tour Committee). Booklet is in the AME Zion clippings files of the Jones Library Special Collections

James Smith and Mary Commager (Interviewers). *Ruth Goodwin Interview, 1983* in the AME Zion clippings files of the Jones Library Special Collections

Newspaper clippings about “Ma” Goodwin memoirs, and events at the AME Zion Church, in the AME Zion clippings files of the Jones Library Special Collections

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