

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

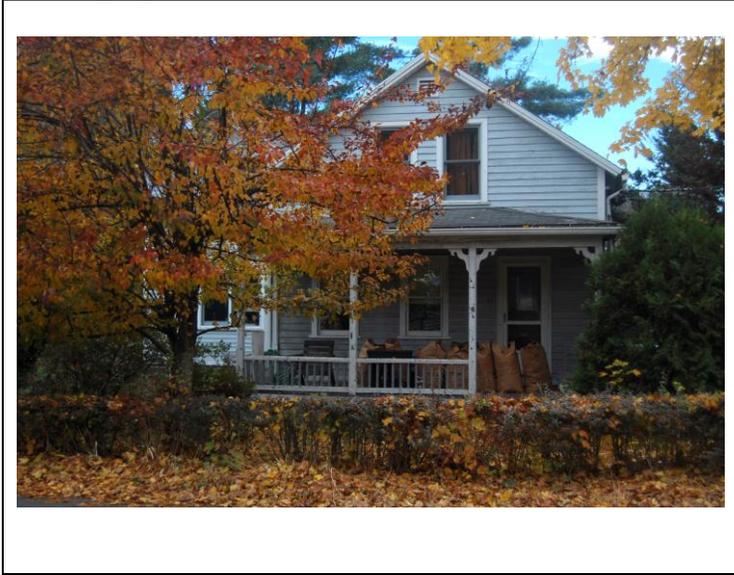
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

11C-6	Mt. Toby	E	AMH.
-------	----------	---	------

**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** Amherst Center

## Photograph



**Address:** 51 McClellan Street

**Historic Name:** Benjamin B. Thompson house

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1866-7

**Source:** Town tax valuations

**Style/Form:** Farmhouse / New Englander

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations (with dates):** remodeled in 1987, added rear deck and apartment over garage.

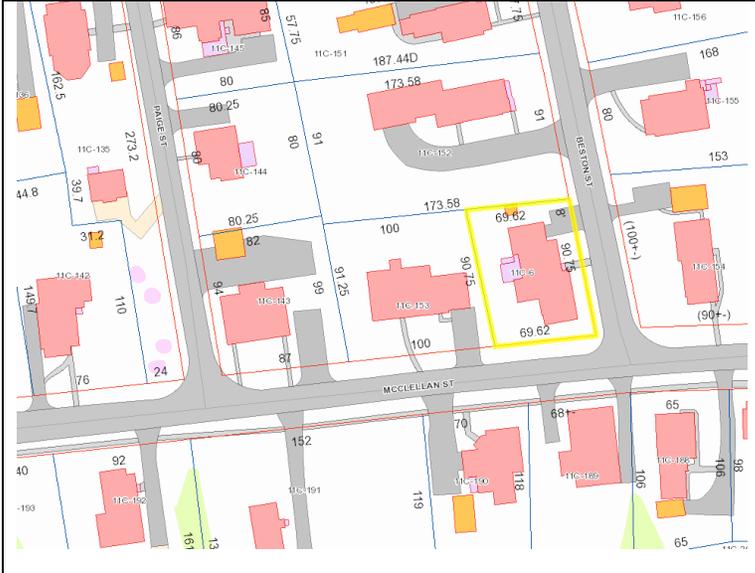
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .14 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

51 MCCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

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.*

New England vernacular farmhouse façade typical of the working-class houses throughout the neighborhood, with right positioned door fronting McClellan, two windows to left on first story, and two windows above on second. Building has been added onto over the years, most recently in 1987, to the rear of the building along Beston, with a studio over the garage and a deck. A second entry on the east with small porch is located on side, off Beston Street, as well as a third door off the back deck facing north. Renovations preserve the lines of the original “four-square” structure which had been augmented long before the present owners added deck and studio. An exploration of the cellar shows the stages and sequence of additions to the house.

## 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 McClellan Street house was part of the Emeline Williams acreage described in the 14 Beston Street historical narrative. It belonged to a 399 sq. rod parcel that included the entire west side of Beston Street from the end of the cul-de-sac to the north to the place where it meets McClellan at right angles to the south. McClellan Street had been planned as early as 1854, possibly for access to the farm to the north at that time owned by Borland, but the 1860 Walling map shows only Tan Brook, no roads or building in the area. McClellan Street is shown on the 1873 Beers maps, as is what became Beston St. but as yet unnamed.

The west side of what became Beston Street was developed by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farmer and developer Leavitt Hallock, who sold 399 sq. rods of land (about 2.5 acres) to Emeline S. Williams on August 17, 1863 for \$459.69, with a mortgage for the full amount to be paid off by 1868 [214/30]. Access to a roadway to be built by Horace Henderson on the east side of the 399 sq. rod parcel was promised for all lots, presumably providing access from McClellan to the Henderson farm to the north. Emeline Williams’s 399 rod parcel eventually became the present-day properties at 14, 20, 26, and 44 Beston Street as well as the corner house at 51 McClellan.

On June 3, 1868, Emeline Williams sold 40 rods fronting McClellan Street that defined the corner parcel of Beston and McClellan to tailor Benjamin B. Thompson for \$1300 [249/201]. The price suggests a house already on that corner lot. Thompson joined a growing community of tailors on McClellan, mainly Irish; Thompson however was born in England, his wife Helen, was Scots. The 1880 Census shows Thompson at 41 McClellan, age 60, a tailor, with wife Helen age 55, and daughter Isabella age 15. Thompson died age 73 in 1889 of “disease of brain.”

Thompson’s widow Helen sold the property to Margaret W. Gaskell on June 8, 1891, with the mortgage [443/117-8]. It passed from Gaskell to LVB Cook in 1893 [457/425] and onto John and Nora White in the same year [459/373] for \$1200. After passing through several estates and many hands, by 1922 the property was owned by Mary Kelley Lehane (the north and west boundaries subsequently adjusted – see narrative for 57 McClellan) and passed to the Mary K. Lehane estate [877/486-7], to Francis P. Lehane in 1964 [1438/370] to Francis P. and Stella M. Lehane in 1971 [1607/182] and to the present owners, Bernice M. and Jon K. Rosenthal in 1987 [2896/119].

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds

Tax valuations

1860 Walling map

1873 Beers map & revision

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

AMHERST

51 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

---

Amherst Directories