

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---|------|
| 11C-139 | Mt. Toby | E | AMH. |
|---------|----------|---|------|

Town/City: Amherst

Place: Amherst

Photograph



Address: 87 McClellan Street

Historic Name: The Thomas McLaughlin House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1868

Source: house taxed in 1869

Style/Form: Farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone foundation under 8 rows of brick and mortar

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn with slate roof

Major Alterations (with dates): since concrete is used under the front entrance and back portion with the bay window, these were likely later additions

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: double lot - .44 acres total

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

87 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|---|--|
| E | |
|---|--|

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.

Double lot, one-and-a-half stories. Property seems to be a typical New Englander style home turned 90 degrees to the street to the left. On eastern gable end, an enclosed porch runs along the length of the eastern side. The main entry enters this porch on its southern side, facing McClellan Street. Three irregularly spaced windows puncture the McClellan side of the building on the first floor only. An ell extends to the west with a large mullioned picture window facing McClellan.

The current owners report (in 2016) that the barn has a slate roof and a hayloft; the owners cut vents on the north and south sides to improve ventilation. The porch facing east was an addition, enclosing what was apparently the main door facing east. See letter from current owners following this Form for other renovations 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.

Mary Slattery and her father William bought the property [228/217-8] for \$450 on April 15, 1864 from Thomas Haley who had married Mary's sister Kate and who also lived on McClellan. Mary married Thomas McLaughlin by 1868 (intentions filed 11/21/1867) and the house was built in the middle of the lot, taxed May 1st 1869 in his name. William Slattery, signing with an X, then sold his interest in the property to Mary Slattery for \$225 on October 12, 1868 [256/17].

Later on lots were sold off the east and west ends of the property (originally and later noted as 2 ½ acres, but also as 3 acres), such as the present 81 McClellan built on the east end of the property in 1898 - 1899, and sold by Mary to Ellen Kelley in July 1900. Thomas Haley's son John had had a house built in 1896-7 just east on the street, rented out until 1927, now 77 McClellan St. Two lots to the west were sold by Mary Slattery to Sarah E. Prince in 1900, now #242 Lincoln Ave., and the 1900 and 1910 show Sarah and George Prince (ages 70 and 80) living with a servant on Lincoln Avenue. After Mary's death, Thomas McLaughlin sold what is now #245 Lincoln Avenue to Jessie Thompson in 1906.

Mary Slattery McLaughlin was from Sligo, Ireland, born 1832 and died in 1901; Thomas McLaughlin was from County Kildare, Ireland, born 1833 and died in 1914. Mary's parents and siblings had a six acre farm by/on Mt. Pleasant, listed as household #339 in the 1860 U.S.Census. The 1860 Census shows an Irish-born family of 9, Mary the eldest child age 28 (parents age 55 and 52) and other children ranging from 26-14.

At Probate Court on December 2, 1902, Thomas McLaughlin petitioned for the estate of the deceased Mary (Slattery) McLaughlin. Following Thomas McLaughlin's death, George Cutler, his executor, granted Edward B. Dickinson the McClellan Street property on the basis of a private sale (April 6, 1915) [712/263] and in 1926, the children of Edward B. Dickinson provided Maria Dickinson with a quitclaim deed to the property [828/241]. In 1933, Warren B. Brown, as administrator of Maria Dickinson's estate, sold the land and buildings to Eleferios and Olga Mitchell [889/173] who then conveyed 87 McClellan to Howard E. Mitchell (August 6, 1952) [1123/484]. Howard Mitchell had deeded the property to Robert S. Koithan (of Rye, NY) and Doris Koithan Corder (of Scarsdale NY) (August 6, 1952, no deed reference given), both of whom, with Olga E. Mitchell, then conveyed the property to the current owners, Lewis C. and Caden Mainzer (September 15, 1959) [1311/173].

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

F. W. Beers map of Amherst, Hampshire County Mass. Pp.42-43, 1873 & revision, (c.1874-5)

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

87 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

| | |
|---|--|
| E | |
|---|--|

Town of Amherst Tax Valuations Books (values of houses & land) 1866-69; 1898-1900.

Local deeds, Books/pages: 228/217-8, 1864; 256/17, 1868; 536/455-6, 1900; 566/363-4, 1903 (Mary's estate to Thomas);
607/220, 1906.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

87 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

| | |
|---|--|
| E | |
|---|--|

87 McClellan Street

The roof, when we bought the house in September, 1959, was slate, like the barn roof, but in less fine condition. We replaced the house's decaying slate with shingles (asphalt, I gather), in the late 1990s, on advice of a roofer.

The barn, a wonderful structure, which still has its original elements, including a hayloft, still has its slate roof. We modified the barn, on advice of knowledgeable persons, to allow proper air circulation, by having vents cut into both north and south ends. The barn doors (facing south) open inward (testimony to the reality of New England snow), and one side (west) has higher doors, which lead conveniently beside the hayloft (presumably for easy unloading of the cut hay).

The porch facing east at the east end of the house appears to have been an addition to the original house. It encloses what was apparently the main door to the house, facing east. We have been told that the expectation was that there would be a road (north-south) going by, south to Amity Street.

The basement wall (foundation) consists of more-or-less flat stones (some more round), with eight rows of brick (and mortar) atop the stone foundation.

We had the kitchen renovated (ground floor, west end of house), including replacing the west window, which was much like the other double-hung windows in the house, with the current mullion window, which opens outward.

When we bought the house it had "gravity hot air heating"; we replaced this with a modern oil burner and forced hot air. The house when we moved in also had a kerosene burner in the basement, with a line up to a little stove in the kitchen, which our predecessor used for heating morning hot water and warming the kitchen. The house originally had pot-belly stoves, we gather, and some of the round pipe entry spaces (since covered up) were still visible under the wall paper.

Around 1972-73 we added an addition to the north of the east end of the house, i.e., we extended the ground floor eastern-most room out to the north, turning what had been a window into a door into the new room (which itself has windows on three sides).

Lewis Mainzer



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

87 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|---|--|
| E | |
|---|--|