

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

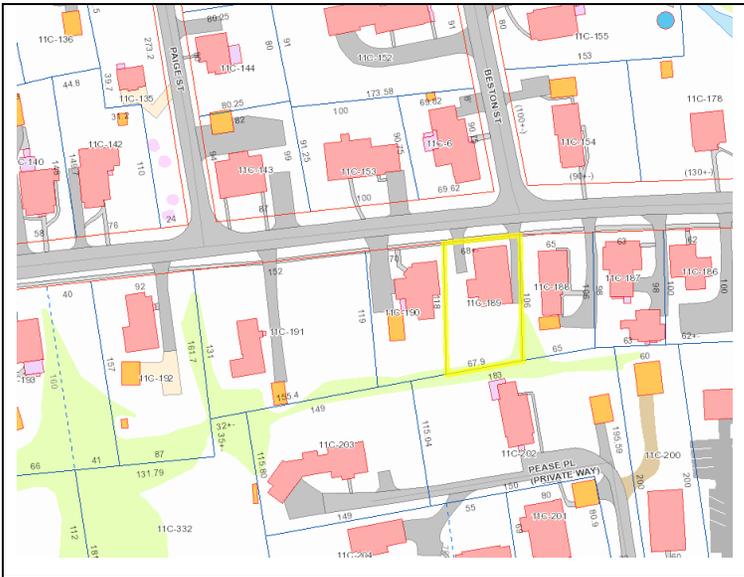
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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| 209; 11C-189 | Mt. Toby | E | AMH. 203 |
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## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Town/City:** Amherst

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

**Address:** 50 McClellan Street

**Historic Name:** Williams-Deady House

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1860-61

**Source:** Visual; Maps

**Style/Form:** (present)Bungalow, changed c.1960s

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood; Wood Clapboard

Roof: asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Roof line changed, porch added, transformation to bungalow style, 1960s?

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:** 7

**Acreage:** .19 acres

**Setting:** Residential

**Recorded by:** C. Gibson, E. Wilfert, M. Adams

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): April and October, 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

50 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.*

Bungalow style house with one story side-facing gable with large dormer to provide fenestration to second floor. Dormer extends along the entire length of the façade and features two evenly spaced windows. Façade features a covered porch extending along the length of the façade, simple squared posts support the porch roof, two on either side of the entrance and one at each corner; posts feature tiny scroll brackets. An enclosed knee-high, clapboard cover balustrade encloses the lower half of the porch. A set of exterior stairs with simple railings rise up to the centrally placed main entry. Two windows, one on each side, flank the front door. The original house did not include the bungalow porch or roof line.

## 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 1886 Bird's Eye View of Amherst shows the street tightly lined with houses about two-thirds of the way to Lincoln Avenue. That would indicate the presence of this house by 1886. At the time, most of the residents on McClellan Street were laborers, tradesmen tailors or widows of Irish descent. In the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, black families also lived on the street – Mittie Hall at 50 McClellan, with the Goodwin's across the street at first at 31 and later at 43 McClellan, Mrs. Da Costa at 77 and later 84 McClellan, close neighbors to the Biases on Beston, and the Hasbrooks and Pettyjohns on Paige. Many were founding members of the AME Zion Church of Amherst and remained active members.

The original house owner in the 1860s was Lucas Williams, merchant tailor, who lived with his brother Edward on North Prospect Street and elsewhere in Amherst. In the 1860 Census he is listed with Timothy Deady and his family of tailors who rented the house from Lucas and his nephew B.H. Williams from the mid-1860s into the 1880s. There was a house on the property by 1861, but the style of the house was changed to a bungalow much later, presumably in the 1960s. Six of the properties directly to the east were built as rentals.

Timothy Deady and his family included 5 tailors/tailoresses according to the 1880 census, which lists eleven tailors/tailoresses on McClellan street, including Mary Casey next door, B.B.Thompson across the street, the widow Eliza Stack and her daughter, Philip O'Gorman – and there were others (the Beston daughters for example) in the neighborhood. Whether they worked for Lucas and his nephew B. Hartley Williams or for Oliver Pease (both merchant tailors in Merchants Row) has not yet been proved. (Pease owned land that adjoined the neighborhood to the south fronting onto Hallock; Hartley was the son of Emeline Williams, who had invested in open land on the western side of Beston Street, evidently planning that her husband, who died shortly thereafter, might build there.) Some tailors and dressmakers, such as Thompson and the Bestons, built up their own businesses, prospered, and moved to Lincoln Avenue.

Ownership was held by B. Hartley Williams on October 13, 1888, when he sold the land "with the buildings thereon" – "being the same land conveyed to me by Lucus [sp] Williams" – to Mary Moynihan for \$925. [420/293]. Mary Moynihan's heirs – Katherine B. Beston, and Edward L., James W., and Frank J. Moynihan – sold the property on October 18, 1909 to Mittie A[nderson] Hall [647/329].

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Mittie Hall was born 1869, Raleigh, North Carolina, to parents recently freed from slavery, came to Northampton age 17 through an agency providing southern black women with domestic work in private homes. She was abused in her Northampton household and made her way to Amherst where she worked as a housekeeper in several private homes and purchased her McClellan Street home by 1909. With the Goodwins across the street, she helped found and fund the AME Zion Church, wielding the first shovel to break ground for the church building. In 1912 she married Alexander Anderson, a mason's tender, who had been boarding next door with his two sisters. She died age 83, having lived in Amherst for 60 years, survived by a son, sister and 7 grandchildren. The Mittie Hall Anderson collection at the Jones Library Special Collections has two memoirs, letters and other materials.

Mittie Hall's son and executor, John B. Hall, sold 50 McClellan to John H. and Caroline P. Connelly (of Belchertown) on November 30, 1954 [1183/413]. It passed to Kamins Inc. by 1965 [1468/499]; to Barbara Chase and M.C. Waller (1966) [1487/324]; to Barbara Chase's sister Marjorie Waller (1977) [1999/109]; to Irene Klasina Koster and Bob Mezoff (1980) [2176/180]; to Irene Klasina Koster Abramms (1993) [4317/336]; and to the present owners, Craig and Rachel Gibson (2014) [11578/31].

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

1873 Beers map

Bird's Eye View 1886

1910 map

Amherst Street Lists and Directories

Deeds

Tax Valuations

Daniel Lombardo (1989). *A look back: Mittie Hall Anderson – From the world of slavery to the founding of a church in Amherst.*

Mss in the Jones Library Special Collections.

Personal inspection of attic; roof line change to allow for present front porch.

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Watercolor of Mittie Hall Anderson, probably painted by former employer's daughter Dorothy Waugh. I believe this image is at the Jones Library – E. Guin