

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: 24 McClellan Street

Historic Name: John C. and Elizabeth Doherty House

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: by 1890

Source: Street Directories and Sanborn Maps

Style/Form: Vernacular farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Two, one-story gable roof outbuildings AMH.1300 & AMH.1301 (1916-1930 and post 1950)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vinyl Siding and Vinyl replacement windows - late 20th century

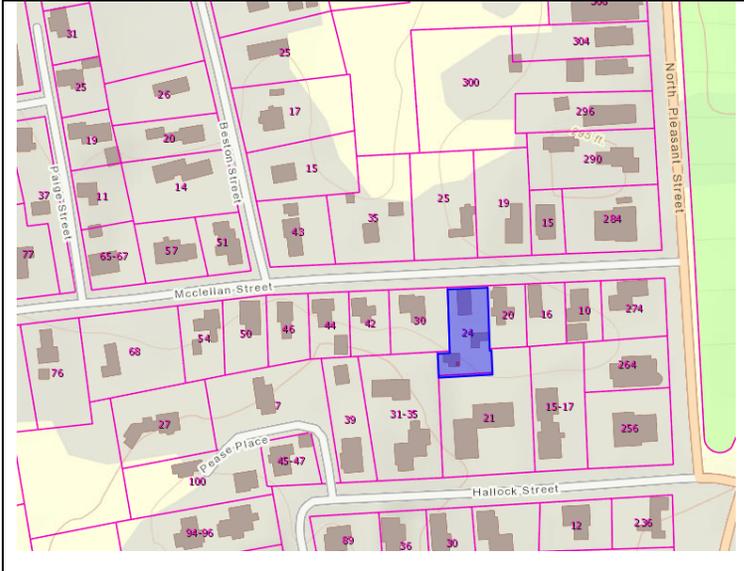
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.20 Acres

Setting: Located in a residential area northwest of the town center that was built up in the 19th century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Geoffrey Melhuish; E. Wilfert and M. Adams

Organization: ttl-architects; LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): September 2014; October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

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AMH.1299-
AMH.1301

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.

24 McClellan Street (AMH.1299) is a one-and-one-half story wood-frame late nineteenth century residence. The three-by-two bay building faces north on the south side of McClellan Street and is set back slightly from the edge of the street. The side-entrance two-story vernacular farmhouse is typical of other working-class homes on McClellan, on Beston and Paige, on North Prospect and elsewhere in the neighborhood.

The building is constructed on a brick foundation and terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof. The residence is clad with vinyl siding. Access is provided by an entry at the east end of the façade. The door is a replacement. Two, 1/1 double-hung vinyl replacement sash windows are located west of the entrance. A window on the east elevation features a single-light surrounded by small panes of glass; a typical Queen Anne feature. A one-story rear ell is located on the south elevation. The ell is capped by a gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A one-story hip roof porch is located along the east elevation of the ell.

To the rear (southeast) of the house is a one-story, wood frame outbuilding (AMH.1300). The building is constructed on a stone and concrete foundation and is capped by a front gable roof sheathed with slate. An exposed exterior chimney is located on the west elevation. The residence is clad with painted wood clapboards. Access is provided by an entry at the north end of the façade. The door is a replacement. A slender 2/1 double-hung wood sash window is located to the south of the entry and immediately north of the exposed chimney. A small 6-light fixed sash window is located in the gable. Two sets of paired 8-light fixed sash wood windows are located on the north elevation of the building. A simple wood surround defines each opening. A one-story, shed roof addition projects out from the south elevation. The building is currently used as a one bedroom rental apartment.

To the rear (southwest) of the house and the first outbuilding is a second one-story, wood frame outbuilding (AMH.1301). The building is constructed on a concrete foundation and is capped by a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. An exposed exterior concrete block chimney is located on the south elevation. The residence is clad with vertical board siding. Access is provided by an entry at the north end of the façade. Cast concrete steps provide access to the entry. A window opening to the south of the entry is covered with plastic. A metal bulkhead door is located below the window. The building is currently used as a one bedroom rental apartment.

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 property became the westernmost household on a larger lot (see historical narratives for #16 and #20 McClellan) bought by local builder Harvey White for speculative development. Mr. White went into bankruptcy and the property was sold at auction on March 11, 1872 for \$402.50, the highest bidder [292/425-7] being Lycurgus Van Buren Cook, a local land speculator from Belchertown, who in 1869 had acquired the Davidge house and lot that abutted the entire property to the east (now #10 McClellan Street, see historical narrative).

Cook sold the lot to become #24 McClellan to John Doherty for \$900 in June 1890 [433/485]. #24 McClellan Street was built c 1895 for and owned by John C. Doherty (b 1835), a tailor from Ireland, and his wife Elizabeth (b 1846), who acquired the lot from L.V.B. Cook in June 1890 [433/485-6]. John Doherty's tax assessments for 1895 and 1896 document the existence of a house on the land. Both Irish immigrants, John (immigrated in 1847) and Elizabeth (in 1861) married in 1867. John worked as a custom tailor in the Williams Block along Merchants Row. They lived on McClellan Street with their large family of three sons:

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John C. Jr. (b. 1873), Francis (b. 1874) and Henry (b. 1884); and four daughters: Katherine (b. 1876), Margaret (b. 1880), Agnes (b. 1885) and Mabel (b. 1887). The son John C. Doherty Jr. worked as a carpenter and was old enough in 1895-6 to have helped build his family house using the traditional vernacular side-entrance design in use throughout the neighborhood. By 1900 John Jr. was residing on his own at 72 Main Street. A pair of deeds with the same date (May 24, 1895) record transfer of ownership within the Doherty family: [475/293] from John Sr. and Elizabeth to John Jr. and [475/345-6] from John C. back to his mother Elizabeth. The 1900 Census shows Irish-born John (tailor, age 64) and Irish-born Elizabeth (wife, 53) and their 6 or their 7 Massachusetts-born children ranging in age from 25 to 12, two employed either as Hat Shop inspector or day laborer, the others at school.

Elizabeth continued to reside on McClellan Street as a widow following her husband's death (sometime between 1905-6 and 1908, according to Amherst Directories), living with some of her children, perhaps also with tenants since in 1920, the chauffeur Frank Moran and his wife Celina were living there.

On April 2, 1925, Elizabeth Doherty sold the property to Mary C. Donahue [824/101-2]. The Donahue's name first appears in the 1927 Amherst Directory. The Donahues, Margaret C. and Frederick W., sold the property to Henry E. Wilson on September 27, 1927 [839/314-5]. Henry Wilson (b. 1885) worked for the grounds department of Massachusetts Agricultural College and the Wilson's maintained ownership of the property until 1971. A deed documents transfers within the Wilson family [1051/420] in 1947, before the property was sold to Richard H. and Phyllis P. Blow, Sr. on March 17, 1971 [1591/230]. The southward extension of the lot was acquired on December 23, 1948 [1043/197] and possibly the two rental houses behind #24 (not directly on McClellan) are the result of that southward extension. Earl F. Shumway provided southward property to Henry Wilson on July 5, 1949, but no deed is evident.

On April 24, 1972, the property was sold to Richard H. Rooney, Sr., et al [1630/138] and on June 4, 1973, to Michael D. Fay [1707/157] who maintains the house (and possibly the two small rental houses behind the main house – approximate year build 1950 and 1965) as rental and lives in St. Petersburg, FL.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES and LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

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AMH.1300



AMH.1301 Image from Amherst Assessor Database, c2004.

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AMH.1300. Image from Amherst Assessor Database, c2004.



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