

# 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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**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** Amherst Center

**Address:** 20 McClellan Street

**Historic Name:**

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

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1873 - 1884

**Source:** Deeds and tax valuations

**Style/Form:** Farmhouse with gabled addition

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick with fieldstone likely below

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** shed

**Major Alterations (with dates):** 1987-1992, remodel and addition to third floor.

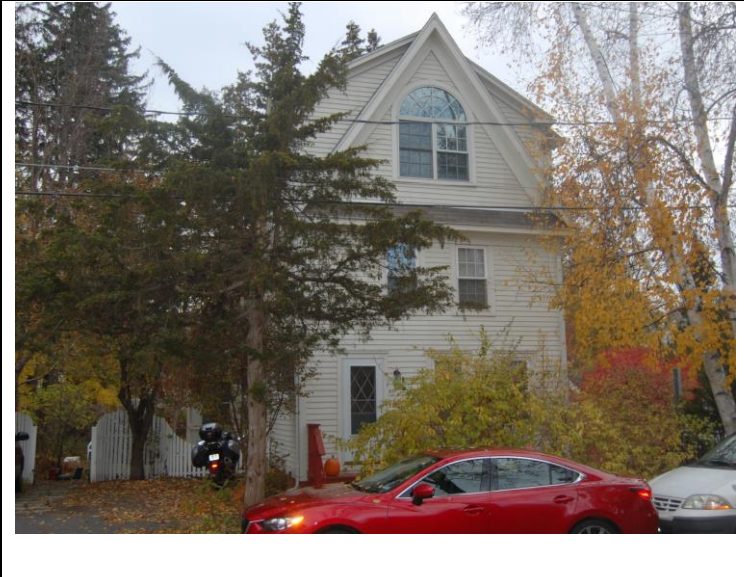
**Condition:** Good

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

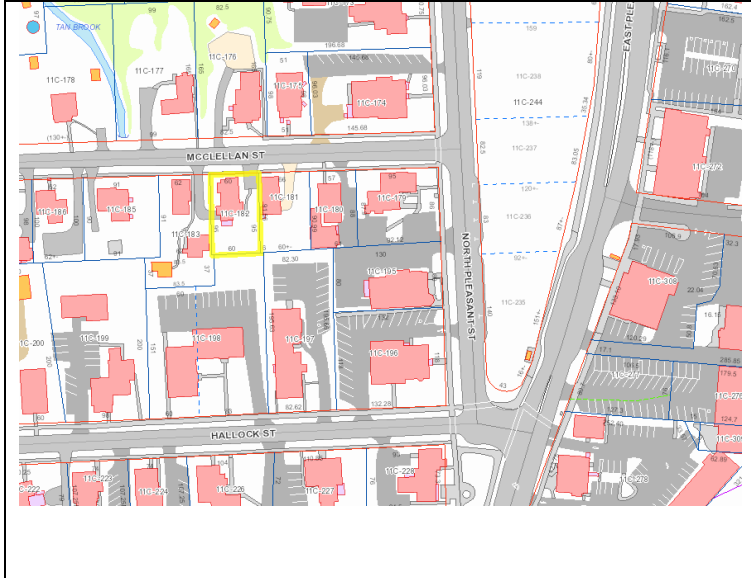
**Acreage:** .13

**Setting:** rural college town

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** E. Gouin; E. Wilfert; M. Adams

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date (month / year):** October 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

20 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.*

Two-and-half story house with steep gable creating a third-floor addition; large non-matching dormers extend the size of the third floor. Also on the third floor is a cathedral window on front gable addition, cathedral window appears on left side gable as well. Master bedroom in the rear has a large window looking out into the garden

## 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 was located in the middle of a larger lot (see historical narratives for #16 and 24 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 (now #10 McClellan Street, see historical narrative).

The lot to become #20 McClellan passed from Cook through the ownership of Emily A. Bruce (of Belchertown) and Fanny L. Leary (of Greenfield) – and their husbands, Dexter B. Bruce and T.F. Leary -- who sold it to George Cutler “together with all the buildings standing thereon” on February 26, 1884 [388/328] for \$850. This leaves questions as to the exact building date (1872-1884) and responsibility for the construction (Cook, or Bruce and Leary) for the house. Cutler sold the property to Michael S. Connors on April 12, 1894 [470/187-8]. Michael and John Connors are listed in the 1879 Amherst Directory on Pleasant St; in the 1889-90 Directory, John, Matthew and Michael, laborers, are housed on McClellan, and Michael Jr., employed by MAC, boards on McClellan and in 1892-3, John and Michael are on McClellan, as is Mrs. Mary Connors (a boarder, working at the College Co-Op Laundry, and Michael Jr., still employed by MAC and still boarding. 1895 Michael Connors is the only Connors name on McClellan and in 1896-7 an address is given for Michael (laborer) and Michael G. (florist), at 6 McClellan (becomes #20 in the 1937-8 renumbering of Amherst houses). Houses numbers are fluid in the 1890s and Michael (the florist) is at 8 McClellan according to the 1898-9 and 1903 Directories. In 1923, Michael G. Connor (no final “s”) (florist) is at 6 McClellan with Helen R., a stenographer, listed as a boarder.

Evidence is missing about ownership of #20 McClellan between 1894 (when sold to Michael Connors and then inhabited by his son, Michael G. Connor (Jr.) and 1930, when the trail picks up again with a quitclaim deed dated September 22, 1930, from Katharine M. Moakler (of Northampton) to Michael G. and Annie A. Connors [866/386], presumably descendants of Michael S. Connors. Katharine M. Moakler’s title to the property is described as follows: “For my title see deed from Michael G. Connors to me, dated -- -- 1930, and recorded with Hampshire Country Registry of Deeds” [866/386]. No date is written in. On May 13, 1950, Annie A. Connor (aka Annie A. Connors) grants the property to Michael F[rancis] Connor [1068/448], noting that Michael G. Connors was deceased. Following Michael F. Connor’s death, Eugenie L. Stacey, executrix under his will, sold the property to William Ploog and Patricia Erwin on May 26, 1982 [2273/145] with reference to Hampshire County Probate Court Docket #50667 and Certificate releasing tax lien dated March 2, 1982 [2267/18].

The property passed to Lawrence J. Novakov-Lawler in 1984 [2478/172], then to Richard E. and Marcie A. Sclove in 1992 [3992/283] who in 2000 built an entirely new gabled third-floor addition with large cathedral windows, the weight of which required the installation of new vertical foundations for both sides of the house. The house was bought by Simon P. Alciere in 2014 [11630/310].

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Deeds  
Tax assessment records  
Amherst Town Directories