

# 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

## Photograph



**Address:** 19 McClellan Street

**Historic Name:** Michael Martin House

**Uses:** Present: Three-Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** 1863

**Source:** Town property form

**Style/Form:** Traditional farmhouse

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick with fieldstone likely below

Wall/Trim: Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations (with dates):**

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .31

**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

19 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 stories, gable roofed. Porch runs along  $\frac{3}{4}$  of house width with an enclosed front room right third of façade. Decorative brackets mark transition front porch posts to porch roof. Left side of building has a lower gabled massing.

## 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.*

Michael Martin, a laborer born in Ireland, had use of the property from Luke Sweetser and was living on it by 1863 according to tax assessment records next to his name for that year, which list a \$400 home and a \$125  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre lot; the 1864 tax records have the home valued at \$300 and the lot the same. But the actual deed from Luke Sweetser to Michael Martin was not drawn up until November 27, 1867 [248/27] for the McClellan Street property ("land and the buildings thereon") for \$800. The earliest of the Amherst directories, 1869, and the 1873 Directory list Michael Martin, a saddler, with a house on McClellan.

The 1870 Census gives Michael Martin's age as 66, a laborer born in Ireland, with property worth \$1400, living with his Irish-born wife Bridget, age 64, "at home," three adult family members (Patrick, 28, a laborer; Mary, 26, keeping house; and John, 26, with property worth \$400) and two grandchildren ages 1 and 3. By 1876 Michael Martin had lost the house through foreclosure and was listed in 1879 in a house on Westcott; in 1886 he was boarding in Northampton. Michael Martin died January 3, 1894, predeceased by his wife Bridget on May 17, 1871, age 60.

It is not clear whether the \$1400 real estate attributed to him by the 1870 Census refers to the combined tax value of the McClellan Street house (\$400 and \$125) and \$750 for a "Henderson" lot of 17  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres nor does one know where his John's \$400 property was located.

On June 21, 1876, the Michael Martin property was mortgaged with Kendrick, Couch and Bartlett by Amherst Savings Bank [327/285] for \$843 and redeemed for \$891 on March 5, 1879 [346/303-8] by Kendrick, Couch and Burt, who sold the property to Alfred E. Ray on October 3, 1882 [374/290]. The property then passed from Alfred Ray to Frank and June Ray in 1986 [2883/289] and remains with their trustees, passing to Michael Ziebka and Kevin Ray, trustees [10509/20] in 2011 with a Farmington, CT address. The property was listed in 2008 as owner-occupied but is now operated as a rental.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds  
Tax assessment records  
Census  
Amherst Directories  
Property card