

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

11C-181	Mt. Toby	E	AMH.
---------	----------	---	------

Town/City: Amherst

Place Amherst Center

Photograph



Address: 16 McClellan Street

Historic Name: John Russell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: c. 1873-6

Source: Deeds & tax valuations

Style/Form: Rural farmhouse

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick with stone below grade

Wall/Trim: Asbestos

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .14 acres

Setting: rural college town

Locus Map



Recorded by: E. Gouin; J.Tucker; E. Wilfert; M. Adams

Organization: LHDSC

Date (month / year): October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

16 MCCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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.

A small structure, 1 ¾ stories, set right upon the edge of the McClellan Street sidewalk. The home is bordered closely by other structures. The home has a front façade with left-oriented front door facing McClellan and is in the traditional farmhouse style of houses on Beston, Paige and elsewhere in the immediate neighborhood. A second side door is on left with a small porch featuring decorative brackets. Gable-end towards McClellan, with front door oriented to the left and two windows to the right of the door. Front gable contains two smaller windows paired together. Large double side dormers also bring light into the second floor. Chimney is placed in the center of the building.

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 and the two immediately to the west (#20 and #24 McClellan) were part of a larger lot bought by local builder Harvey White for speculative development. Mr. White went into bankruptcy and the lots were sold at auction on March 18, 1872 [292/425-7] to Lycurgus Van Buren Cook, a local land speculator from Belchertown, for \$402.50. In 1869, Cook had acquired the abutting Davidge house and lot (now #10 McClellan Street, see historical narrative). The lot to become #16 McClellan was sold by Mr. Cook to John Russell for \$1,000. on July 18, 1876 [329/89], the price indicating that the lot had a house already on it, presumably built shortly before. Based on this information, the house at 16 McClellan Street can be said to have been built between 1873-1876.

Although the Amherst Assessor's card for the house at #16 McClellan Street dates its construction to 1850, but the house does not appear on the 1856 or 1860 Walling atlases or the 1873 Beers atlas. The house first appears on the 1886 Burleigh perspective, the 1902 Sanborn fire map and on all subsequent fire maps (1910, 1916, 1930 and 1950).

Prior to 1937-38, the street address for #16 McClellan Street was #4 McClellan Street. Like many other houses in the McClellan Street neighborhood, #4 McClellan appears to have originally been built and subsequently operated as a rental property. For many years it served as a temporary residence principally for Irish immigrants, because of the predominance of Irish residents in the neighborhood and its proximity to the original location of St. Brigid's Catholic Church on North Pleasant Street.

It was not until the 1890s that Amherst town directories began showing street addresses.

Between 1876 and 1894, the house was sold by John Russell to Stephen Rhodes of Pelham, because on October 1st, 1894 [470/568], Stephen Rhodes (still "of Pelham") sold the property for \$1600 to George Cadwell of Amherst including a \$900. Mortgage to the Amherst Savings Bank. Cadwell had arrived in Amherst sometime after 1890, since he does not appear in the town directory for that year and in 1893 and 1895, Cadwell was identified in the Amherst Directory as living on Northampton Road near Lincoln Avenue, working as a gardener. He became a conductor for the Amherst and Sunderland Street Railroad (trolley), a company that had only just been incorporated (1897) and he was still living at #4 McClellan in 1901. By 1903, Cadwell and his wife Esther had moved and were living on Factory Street (now Summer Street) in North Amherst, where he was employed as a laborer.

On April 2, 1906 [605/12], the property was sold by Cadwell to Bridget Canavan – with the \$900 mortgage still in place. It might have been a rental, since in 1906 it was occupied by Carl Schen, a tailor who worked for Joseph Campion. In 1910, the house was occupied by Timothy Fenton and James Quinlan, both laborers.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

16 McCLELLAN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

Beginning in 1911 and running through 1913, the house was occupied by Margaret Gallivan, widow of Timothy Gallivan (interestingly, another widow of [a different?] Timothy Gallivan lived over on Hazel Avenue). In 1913, Margaret shared the home with Jerry D. Ward, a carpenter. In 1914, Mr. Ward was the only occupant of #4 McClellan Street.

An October 31, 1914 deed [707/185] transfers this property from Mary A. Gallivan to Lillian E. Raymond, noting that this is the "same land conveyed by George H. Cadwell to Bridget Canavan" on April 2, 1906 [605/12] and thereby accounting for the otherwise undocumented transfer from Canavan to Gallivan. Henry LaFayette Pike married Lillian Raymond in 1915 and the couple lived at #16 McClellan with Henry's retired father Sumner L. Pike, a farmer. Henry was a plumber at Mutual Plumbing and Heating in Amherst. In 1918 and 1919, Henry was still living at #4 McClellan Street, but his father Sumner, at age 71-72, had moved to west South Amherst, still identified as a farmer. In 1921 and 1923, Henry Pike was still living on McClellan and was working for the Amherst Gas Company.

All told, the Pike family owned the house at #16 McClellan Street from 1914 to 1945, when Lillian E. Pike sold the property [992/150] to Robert and Ada J. Adair. Henry Pike died on October 9, 1963, and is buried in Wildwood Cemetery.

The Adairs sold the house to Joseph and Marion Provost in 1953. The Provosts sold the house to Kamins Inc. in June 1958, which two weeks later sold it to Carlo and Katherine Fusini [1275/94]. The Fusini's owned the house until 1963, when they sold it to Mary R. Mazzei [1409/347] who operated the house as a rental managed by Historic Renovations and Rental Properties Ltd. Historic Renovations purchased the house in 2016 and provided the needed repairs, while maintaining the original footprint and traditional farmhouse style of the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds
Tax valuations
Amherst Directories