

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

Photograph



Address: 15 McClellan Street

Historic Name: William E. Smith Family

Uses: Present: Three-Family Dwelling House

Original: Unknown

Date of Construction: 1904

Source: Town property form

Style/Form: Multi-family farmhouse

Architect/Builder: Harvey White

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .11 acres

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

15 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.

Structure is a two-and-a-half stories front-facing gabled home. A front porch extends along front side of the building; slender square posts with capitals supports a shallow roof. The front door is oriented slightly off-center to the left. One small double hung window appears on the left of the door, and a much larger, window to the right. On the second floor are two windows, widely spaced from one another. Another two windows appear in the upper half-story; additional windows to this level of the house are accommodated by dormers on the east and western sides of the building). The third story gable is accented by a sliver of protruding roof at the division between the second and third story. The house is set slightly into a slopping lot (sloping upward, away from McClellan Street) and some of the ground has been removed around the basement level, accommodating a door which is reached by a series of downward steps (presumably leading to a basement 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 was part of William E. Smith's larger corner property on the northwest corner of Pleasant and McClellan Streets, which included 284 North Pleasant (see historical narrative). Smith is listed in the 1892-3 Amherst Directory as a carpenter and builder, with a home on Pleasant Street (likely the present #284) at the corner of McClellan. The 1893-1903 Amherst Directories continue to list him as contractor and builder, with a home at 52 Pleasant (using the old numbering system) and by 1905-9 they list him at the same address as retired. He is listed as deceased in 1910. On the property that would be fronting onto McClellan Street (after the sales for #284 and #290 North Pleasant), Smith had built a second house in 1903 (Amherst Tax Assessment records of 1904) which after his death was conveyed to Smith's daughter Minnie Pennock by her sisters in their role as Smith's legatees, on August 19, 1909 [645/395].

From Pennock it was conveyed on March 18, 1912 (subject to a \$2,000 mortgage and taxes for 1912) to Elmer Millett [677/291] and a year later, on May 12, 1913, to Elbridge and Charlotte Perkins [691/286]. August 25, 1920, it was sold to Ruth P. Ray [761/181] who already owned the Michael Martin property, #19 McClellan, next door. There are Probate documents for descendants of the Ray family in 1983 [Probate 6823] and 1986 [2883/291], and in 1998 it acquired by Helen and Barbara Ewert (5544/2015), who also had purchased the next door McClellan/Pleasant Street property (#284) in 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst Tax Assessment records
Deeds
Amherst Directories