

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Photograph



Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Lincoln-Sunset National Register District

Address: 254 Lincoln Avenue

Historic Name: George Prince House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1897

Source: *Springfield Republican*, 31 Dec 1897, p. 11

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

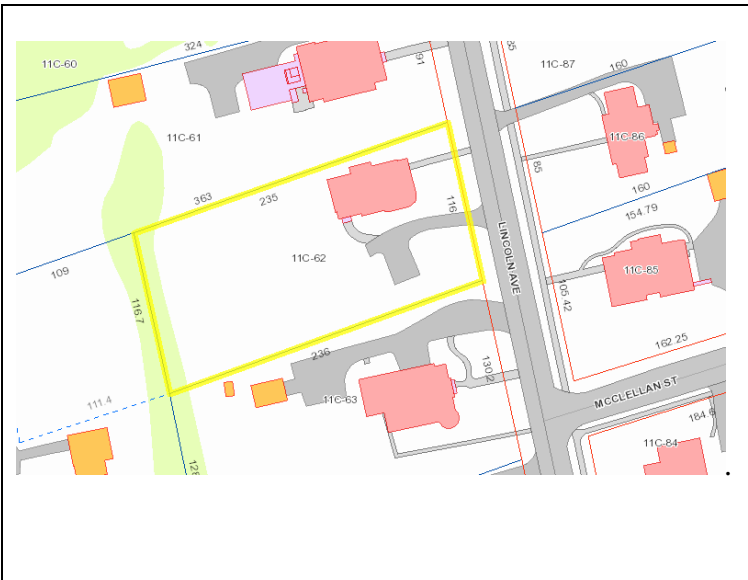
Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .63 acre

Setting: This house is situated on a tree-lined residential street, featuring homes from the last quarter of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Steve Bloom/Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): September 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

254 Lincoln Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.174

 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.

One of several Queen Anne houses in Amherst with ornamental gable shingles, this large front-gabled residence is not the predominant type of building on Lincoln Avenue. It has large full-length windows, a cutaway bay with decorative pendants, and a full wrap-around front porch with chamfered supports. The stepped gable is decorated with shingles with a roping motif. The plan includes a side-hall entry and first-floor bay. The north and south elevations have cross-gabled cutaway bays with pendants and small gable windows.

****SELECTED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT (2/22/1993)****

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.

In its survey of local building during 1897, the *Springfield Republican* reported that “G.H. Prince [has built] one [dwelling] costing the same amount [\$3000] on Lincoln avenue...” George H. Prince (1827-1913) was a farmer and lumberman who would have been retired when he commissioned this house. He served as a selectman in 1872. He and his wife Sarah E. (née Nash; 1829-1911) are found at this address in the 1910 US Census with one of their daughters, Lizzie (b. 1850, who had married Will A. Dickinson), a granddaughter, Edith, and a Polish servant.

In the 1920 census, this home was the residence of Mrs. Annette Skinner, widow of Jarvis Skinner, and her daughter Edna. Edith Dickinson was listed as a boarder. Edna Lucy Skinner (1880-1958) had been called to the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1919 to establish a program in home economics. She became its dean and *de facto* Dean of Women, although she never held that title. She and her mother had moved out of 254 Lincoln by the time of the 1930 Census, but Edith M. and Herbert Dickinson were still living there in 1937.

Prior to 1886 residents on Lincoln Avenue had primarily been professionals, with one farmer. After 1900 merchants and a few skilled workers also lived there. In 1916 there was a notable increase in the number of teachers on the street. This house was a fairly standard builder's model, typical of the period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

“Annual Building Review,” *Springfield Republican*, 31 December 1897, p. 11.

U.S. Census 1889, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

Amherst Street Lists.

Amherst City Directories.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Lincoln-Sunset Historic District, Amherst, section 7, p.10.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Form B (1988), online in the MACRIS database.

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Biographical information on G. H. and Sarah Prince: *Trails to the Past*. Boston: Boston Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1896, s.v. Daniel W. Dickinson, consulted online at RootsWeb, 23 November 2015.

Pritchard, Marietta. "Imagining Edna Skinner." *UMass Magazine*, summer 1997.