

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

Town/City: Amherst

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

Address: 194 Lincoln Avenue

Historic Name: Mason A. Dickinson House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1893

Source: *Springfield Republican*, 30 Dec. 1893, 10-11.

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/ Queen Anne/Shingle
Style

Architect/Builder: F.F. Gilman, architect; E. J. Steeves,
contractor

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Carriage House

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

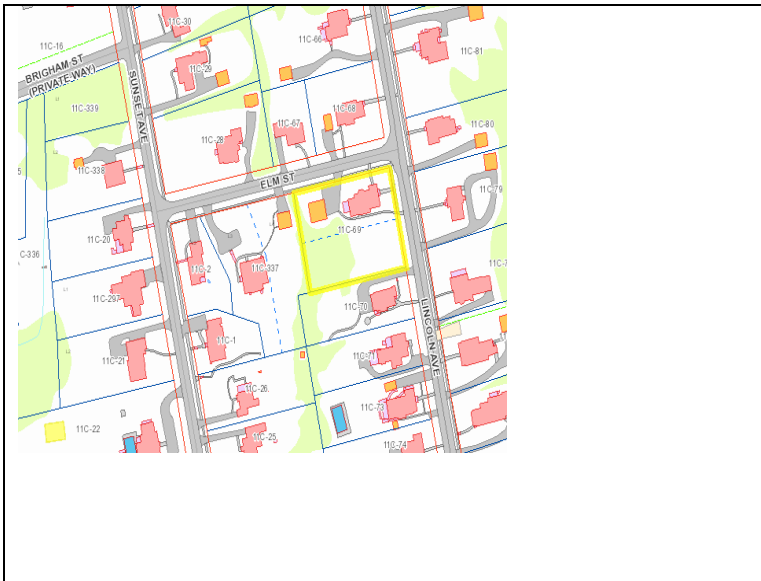
Acreage: .78 acres

Setting: Residential neighborhood with many 19th-century houses. This house stands on a corner lot at the junction of Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Steve Bloom/Suzannah Fabing

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): October 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

194 Lincoln Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E

AMH.166

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.

Many of the large homes on Lincoln Avenue are Colonial Revival in style. However, this hip-roofed Queen Anne with a primary front gable is related to the others in scale and workmanship (particularly 204 Lincoln Avenue). It is one of about six Queen Anne homes in the Lincoln-Amity area, each one a unique combination of elements. This example features shingled siding to unify the various planes of the façade, round corners, cornice overhang, and an oriel window.

While the form of the house is Colonial Revival, with its modified garrison overhang and hipped roof, several of the details are Queen Anne and Shingle Style. It features hipped-roof dormers and a Queen Anne polygonal-roofed dormer with finial, as well as a primary façade gable with shingles in an arched pattern above a cutaway bay, associated with the Queen Anne style. Dormer windows are recessed with rolled corners, a Shingle Style element, and the various planes of the façade are unified by the consistent use of shingles. A two-story hipped-roof barn to the rear has been converted into a two-bay garage.

****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.

"Contractor Steeves has also built a \$4000 house on Lincoln avenue for Mason A. Dickinson," wrote the *Springfield Republican* in its year-end review of construction in Amherst in 1893.

Mason Adams Dickinson (1863-1939), the owner of the Grange Store and president of the Amherst Manufacturing Company, was the only one taxed for two horses on Lincoln Avenue in 1910. His house was valued at \$3500 then, well above the town average of \$1606. He, his wife Susie (née Strickland), a daughter and a servant were still living at this address in 1930, and he appears there in City Directories at least through 1932. The building was the childhood home of Freeman Dickinson, who constructed the stuccoed house (191 Lincoln Avenue) across the street. Another child of Mason and Susie Dickinson, Mason A. Dickinson, Jr., bought the historic William Boltwood house (243 Amity Street) around the corner.

This house does not appear on the 1873 map, when the land was the property of Stockbridge and Westcott. They sold parcels on Lincoln with deed restrictions concerning setbacks, workmanship and valuation. In 1910 this house was surrounded by the homes of professors, professionals and merchants. Most homes took in student or non-student boarders and had domestics living and working on the premises.

Architect F. F. Gilman of Fitchburg MA was designing a horse barn for the MAC (AMH.109) in 1893-94, and it was perhaps in this context that he came to the attention of Mason Dickinson. E. J. Steeves was a leading contractor for Amherst residences of this era. A copy of the specifications for this house (but not the plans and drawings referenced therein) is in the Special Collections of the Jones Library, Amherst. A note in pencil on the reverse suggests that Steeves or Harry Hollis might have been the contractor, although there is no indication of architect or contractor in the document itself.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"The Building Record for the Year now Closing," *Springfield Republican*, 30 December 1893, pp. 10-11.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

194 Lincoln Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Maps 1873, 1886,

Amherst City Directories

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds: Book 461/178, Stockbridge & Westcott to Mason A. Dickinson for \$850, 4 July 1893; lot 17 was divided between Dickinson and Frank Whitman; see Book 175/202, 18 May 1895. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Lincoln-Sunset Historic District, Amherst, section 7, p. 8.

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

David Sloviter, personal communication with Steve Bloom, 8 November 2015, naming the architect.

Specifications, in the Jones Library Special Collections.

Biographical information on Mason A. Dickinson: Lockwood, John H., ed. *Western Massachusetts: A History 1636-1925*. 4 vols. (1926). Pp. 234-236.