

# 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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**Town/City:** Amherst

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

**Address:** 209 Lincoln Avenue

**Historic Name:** Joseph O. and Lulu Thompson House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1913

**Source:** Tax records, City Directories

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard; Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Garage (20<sup>th</sup> century intrusion)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1998 – Sun Room on east side.

2008 – Master Bath on the south side over porch

**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** 1.2 acres

**Setting:** Residential. This house occupies a large lot on the east side of the street, near the junction with Elm Street.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Steve Bloom/Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): September 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

209 Lincoln Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.169

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.*

This large square-plan house with a hipped roof and dormer is related to about fifteen others in the Lincoln-Amity area. Common to all are the large scale, fanlights and sidelights at the doorway, and free use of colonial details. This example features broken pedimented dormers, a Palladian window centered over the front porch, paired double-hung windows, and an entry porch with railing, supported by slender columns, that emphasizes the doorway.

In 1930 the house was valued at \$5900 and the garage at \$500. The average garage valuation at that time was \$200. The 2 ½ -story house has the broad proportions of the late Colonial Revival period and has been simplified stylistically. The three-bay façade is preceded by a large rectangular portico, and the entry is flanked by an oval window. The main façade windows are three part and transomed, as is characteristic of the late Colonial Revival style. The hip roof has hip-roofed dormers on the side elevations and a hip-roofed dormer with a split pediment and urn motif on the street elevation. A second-story Palladian window has no molding detail, and the flush corner-boards of the house are unarticulated. The south elevation has an open porch with a balcony, which overlooks a large south side yard. An earlier garage was replaced with a later 20<sup>th</sup>-century garage that is an intrusion in the LHD.

## 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.*

The house was constructed in 1913 for Joseph O. Turner, a professor of mathematics and later physics at Amherst College, and his bride, Lulu. They raised a daughter, Rebecca, and a son, Samuel, there and lived in the house for fifty years. Joseph Osgood Thompson (1863-1953) was a member of the Amherst College class of 1884 and subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Strasbourg before joining the Amherst faculty.

Lincoln Avenue had been divided into building lots by 1873. They were owned by Stockbridge and Westcott, who occasionally sold them with deed restrictions pertaining to new construction: set-back, craftsmanship and valuation. After 1910, directories indicate an increase in the number of Amherst College and Massachusetts Agricultural College faculty and in the number of boarders on Lincoln north of Amity, joining the previous majority of merchants and clergy. Many households had domestics, reflecting the affluent lifestyle this architecture represents. The Thompsons are listed as having a 16-year-old boarder without occupation in the 1920 census, perhaps a nursemaid for their young daughter.

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

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps 1866, 1873, 1916.

Amherst Street Lists .

Amherst City Directories 1925-1952.

U.S. Census, 1920, 1930, 1940.

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Town of Amherst tax records for Joseph O. Thompson, in the Jones Library Special Collections. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for tax research.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Lincoln-Sunset Historic District, Amherst, section 7, pp. 12-13.

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

On Joseph O. Thompson, records at ancestry.com and [https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/physics/department-information/department\\_history/physics\\_faculty\\_from\\_1821](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/physics/department-information/department_history/physics_faculty_from_1821), consulted January 2, 2016.