

# 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:** 166 Lincoln Avenue

**Historic Name:** Charles S. and Alice M. Walker House

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

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1904

**Source:** tax records; interview with current owner

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/ Wood

Roof: Slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage; pool

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

**Condition:** Excellent

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

**Acreage:** .48 acre

**Setting:** Residential neighborhood with many late 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

AMHERST

166 Lincoln Avenue

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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AMH.162

 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 Classic Box plan with hipped roof and dormer is related to about 15 Colonial Revival homes in Amherst, mainly in the Lincoln-Amity area. Common to all are the large scale and free use of colonial details. This example features paired windows and a full-width front porch with a central gable, supported by slender columns. This is one of the smaller examples on Lincoln. Built in 1904, the house is similar in scale and size to the Frank Sherwin House (160 Lincoln Avenue). It is large, but not among the most ornate of the Colonial Revival dwellings on the street. Set on brick foundations, the house has a hipped roof with slate shingles. Asymmetrical fenestration, hipped-roof dormers with triple windows, and a cutaway bay on the south side are the prominent architectural features. However, the flared, reeded porch supports that arch gracefully across the wraparound porch are the most distinctive feature of the exterior.

**\*\*SELECTED TO 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.

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.

Charles Swan Walker (1846-1933) and his wife, Alice Morehouse Walker (1855-1929), are shown at this address in City Directories from 1905 through 1914. Charles Swan Walker was active in Amherst for most of his adult life. Trained as a Congregational minister at Yale, Yale Divinity School, and Andover Theological Seminary, he served as acting pastor and later pastor of South Congregational Church in South Amherst during the period 1876-1886 (with two years out for an assignment in New Jersey). He earned a Ph.D. in political economy and philosophy at Amherst College in 1885 and served as chaplain and professor—of history and political economy and later of mental and political science—at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (forerunner of the University of Massachusetts) from 1886 to 1906. He was active in calling attention to issues in the agricultural economy during the height of the farmer's movement in the 1880s and 1890s. Alice Walker was the sister of Charles Morehouse, editor of the *Amherst Record*, who lived at 18 North Prospect Street. She was a writer in her own right, penning several small historical books about the area, including *Ye Amherst Girl of Ye Olden Tyme* and *Historic Hadley: a story of the Making of a Famous Massachusetts Town*.

By the time the Walkers built the commodious house at 116 Lincoln, their sons, Claude F. and Charles M., were grown, and Charles S. was nearing retirement from academia. He was acting pastor of First Congregational Church in Amherst in 1906. An author of two books and many magazine articles, he became a regular correspondent for the *Springfield Union*, *Boston Globe*, and the Associated Press from 1906 until 1923. He helped found the Amherst Historical Society and served as its director 1903-1925.

In the 1910 US Census the couple share their household with a lodger, a college teacher of modern languages. (After 1910 City Directories indicate an increase in the number of Amherst College and Massachusetts Agricultural faculty and in the number of boarders on Lincoln, joining the previous majority of merchants and clergy.) By 1917 they were living elsewhere in Amherst, first at The Perry on Amity Street, also in the North Prospect-Lincoln-Sunset LHD. Both are buried in Darien CT, Alice's birthplace. Ten albums of clippings assembled by Charles Walker are preserved in the Jones Library Special Collections.

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The 1930 Census shows James A. Lowell, a bookseller, and his wife Bertha living in the house with their daughter, Elizabeth, and two lodgers who were both library clerks. The Lowells are found at this address in City Directories from 1927 through 1942; toward the end of this period, James is listed as a library assistant at Amherst College.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Maps 1873, 1886, 1916.

Amherst City Directories 1886-1923 (Walker), 1927-1948 (Lowell).

US Census 1910, 1920, 1930.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Lincoln-Sunset Historic District, Amherst (30 December 1992), section 7, p. 13 -14.

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

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds: Book 581/137-138, Stockbridge and Westcott to Charles S. Walker, lot 24 for \$900, 29 March 1904. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for deed research.

Biographical data on the Walkers and Lowells at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), viewed 13 November 2015.

On Charles Swan Walker: *Yale University Obituary Record, 1931-34*, pages 7-9. Gerald F. Vaughn, "Massachusetts Agriculture: Charles S. Walker and the National Agrarian Crusade of the 1880s and 1890s," *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, Vol. 36: No. 1 (winter 2008), 71-89.

On Alice Morehouse Walker: Frank Prentice Rand, *The Village of Amherst: a Landmark of Light* (Amherst: Amherst Historical Society, 1958, p. 210.