

# FORM B BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by Elizabeth Conlin, Research Editor

Commissioner, MHDC  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

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**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Amherst Center

**Address:** 174 Lincoln Avenue

**Historic Name:**

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

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1953

**Source:** Amherst street list

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival/Cape Cod

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: hardy plank

Roof: asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Remodeled garage into a wing in 1983; addition at rear built in 1993.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no      yes      **Date:**

**Acreage:** .42 acres

**Setting:** rural college town, residential neighborhood with many homes from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

174 LINCOLN AVE  
E AMH.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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.*

Typical one-story Cape with finished second-floor attic; skylights in the roof bring light to this floor. A thin chimney anchors the building at its center. The main house features a centrally placed front door in the façade, with a pair of double-sash, six-over-six windows flanking either side. A simplified classically inspired portico – with a triangular pediment with raised molding -- covers the entry doorway.  $\frac{3}{4}$  sidelight windows flank the doorway as well. A shorter extension (a former garage) appears on the northern side, set back from the façade, with a covered side-entry from the driveway. It resulted from a renovation in 1983. A large family room with cathedral ceiling was added to the back of the home in 1993; this addition features additional skylights and casement windows typical of the early 1990s.

## 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 address first appears on Amherst street lists in 1953. The residents that year were Arthur E. and Genevieve M. Hess, and Milton R. Heinrich. Arthur Hess is listed as a design engineer who was living in Northampton the year before. The Hesses do not appear on subsequent street lists or in the City Directories, so their presence in Amherst must have been brief. Milton Rollin Heinrich (1919-1994), a biochemist who had previously lived in Pelham, was at that time a researcher at Amherst College. He is also listed at this address in the 1954 street list and city directory. He subsequently moved to 219 Amity Street.

Rufus D. W. Ewing and his wife Gertrude T. Ewing were early owners of this house. They appear at this address in the 1954, 1957 and 1960 Amherst city directories. Rufus Dodds Woods Ewing (1890-1964) was born in Enfield, Massachusetts, and married Gertrude (b. circa 1896) in 1925. She was a native of Minnesota. They lived in Holyoke from the mid-1930s until around 1956, and Rufus rose to become vice-president of American Writing Paper and later Whiting Paper Company. They apparently had no children. Rufus had retired by the time the couple moved to Amherst. Following his death, Gertrude stayed on at the house for a few years, according to the 1966 and 67 directories.

In 1967 the property was acquired by Frances Powers (1897-1983). Frances was the daughter of Amy Beston Powers. Her father, David M. Powers, died when she was twelve, and thereafter Frances and her mother lived for many decades with her Beston grandmother and aunts at 216 Lincoln Avenue. Frances graduated from Amherst High School and Northampton Commercial College. At first a secretary at the University and later secretary to the director of the Jones Library, Frances changed careers in 1936. Her aunts—and for a time her mother—had been milliners, living originally at 44 Beston Street which had been built by their father, John Beston, Jr. Kate and Mary Beston operated a millinery shop, K&M Beston, at 43 South Pleasant Street. By 1936, the aunts were aging, and millinery was perhaps less essential to women of the day. Frances Powers remade the business into The Powers Shop, featuring women's apparel, and became its proprietor. (Both the millinery and the dress shop are listed at the same address in the 1936 directory.) Frances Powers did not marry; she operated the shop at least through 1957 but is not so listed in the 1960 city directory. She owned the house at 174 Lincoln Avenue from 1967 until her death at age 85 in 1983.

In 1997 the Frederick Fisher estate owned the property and it passed to Brodwyn Fisher and Emilio Kouri in 1999. Thomas Dunn and Brenda Bright purchased it in 2001, it is listed in the name of Thomas Dunn trustee in 2004, and was purchased by the Provost at the University, Katherine Newman, in 2014.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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U.S. Census 1920, 1930, 1940.

Amherst city directories, 1912 ff. An advertisement for The Powers Shop appears on page 7 of the 1940 directory.

Amherst street lists, 1963 ff.

Holyoke city directories, 1936-1956.

Town of Amherst property cards.

Obituary of Frances Powers, *Amherst Record*, 2 March 1983, p. 5.



Image from 2014 real estate listing showing the interior of the 1993 addition