

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

11C-93	Mt. Toby	E	AMH.
--------	----------	---	------

Photograph



**Town/City:** Amherst

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

**Address:** 321 Lincoln Avenue

**Historic Name:** Frank Pranckunas House

**Uses:** Present: Two- Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

**Date of Construction:** c. 1932

**Source:** newspaper article

**Style/Form:** Dutch Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Fred Wright

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wooden Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Garage (1965)

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

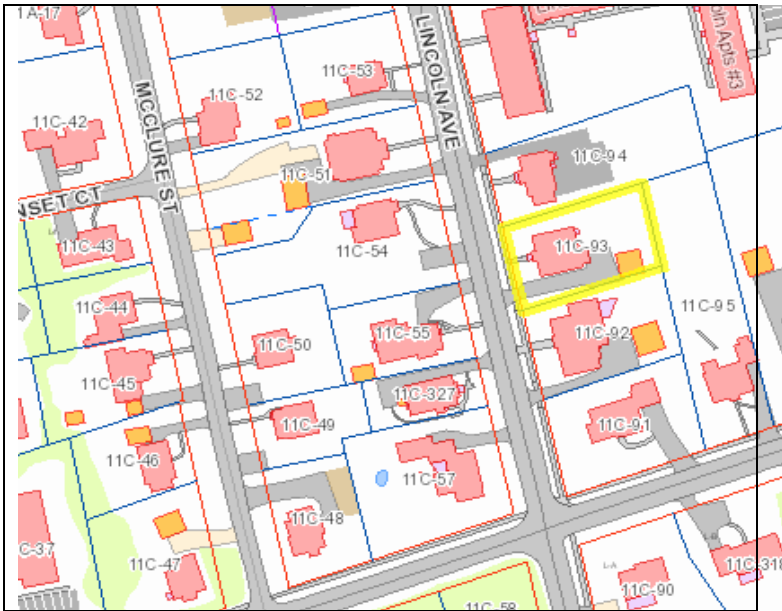
**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .24 Acre

**Setting:** Residential

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Priscilla White/Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

321 LINCOLN AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

E	
---	--

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 side-gabled center-entrance Dutch Colonial Revival home is related to about ten others north and south of Amherst Center. The slight second-story overhang and symmetrical fenestration pattern draw on Colonial prototypes. However, the paired 6/1 double-hung sash windows, the wall to window proportions, and the high foundation are 20<sup>th</sup>-century adaptations. The gambrel roof has two attic dormers with closed gables, on the Lincoln Avenue side. The portico, capped by a closed gable, features colonial/classical columns, and the front door has sidelights.

## 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.*

William Clark, President of MAC, owned the 7-acre parcel that includes the west side of Lincoln Avenue from 1867 to 1879. After his death, his widow Harriet sold the 7 acres to L. V. B. Cook in 1886 for \$1000. Cook sold it to T. B. Beecher of the P. B. Moore Company for \$1. In 1898, P. B. Moore laid out a plan of building lots, a number of which were purchased by Michael Britt, an Irish immigrant and respected stonemason, who built houses on Lincoln and Fearing.

1932-33 was a banner year for house construction in Amherst, with more than 25 private homes added to the rolls. A 1933 newspaper article reports that, "Three or four three-story houses have been built, including those of...Frank Prankunas [sic], also on Lincoln avenue." Prankunas (b. ca 1898), his wife Marcella, and two daughters are listed at the house in the 1940 US Census. A Lithuanian immigrant with a fifth-grade education, he was a chef, first at Amherst College, later in Hartford, and by 1951 (still living at this address), at the Lord Jeffery Amherst Inn.

This house was constructed as the character of Lincoln Avenue) was changing. Previously the home of Amherst College professors, clergy and successful business people, by 1900 it housed more merchants. A teacher and a number of skilled workers lived on the north end of the street. By 1919, the expansion of Massachusetts Agricultural College and its proximity to Lincoln were apparent in the increased number of faculty members (fifteen) living on the street. It is noted as built for Frank Prankunas, by Fred Wright., confirmed by tax records.

This section of Lincoln Avenue, between Fearing Street and North Hadley Road, was originally set out by the County in 1854 and revised in 1883. The houses on this block were built in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and correlate historically with the expansion of Mass Agricultural College (MAC) into a state college and then a university.

The 1918 Amherst Street Directory includes teachers, a farmer, a herdsman, an engineer, a carpenter and a mechanic among the inhabitants of the 300 block of Lincoln. Subsequent street directories include professors as well as merchants and tradespeople.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Old House Will Be Restored", Springfield Republican (?) 6/19/1932, referring to (present) 306, 318 & 321 Lincoln.

"Much Building Activity is Noted at Amherst," *Springfield Republican* (?), 1 April 1933. A clipping of this article is included in the scrapbooks assembled by Mrs. C. J. Fawcett (Vol. 3, pp. 16-17), today in the Special Collections of the Jones Library, Amherst.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

AMHERST

321 LINCOLN AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

Maps 1886, 1916; tax valuations;

Amherst Street Lists and Directories

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

US Census 1940



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

AMHERST

321 LINCOLN AVE

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

