

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Photograph



Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Amherst

Address: 38 Fearing Street

Historic Name: Francis W. and Nettie Powell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1927

Source: Census Records and Street Directories

Style/Form: Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Shingles

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage AMH.1290 (ca. 1927)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreeage: 0.53 acres

Setting: Located in a residential area west of the Town Center and south of the University of Massachusetts. The area was built up in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. To the rear the wooded land slopes westward to Tan Brook.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Geoffrey Melhuish amended GGF

Organization: tll-architects

Date (*month / year*): September 2014/ November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

38 FEARING STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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AMH.1290

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.

38 Fearing Street (AMH.1289) is a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame Dutch Colonial Revival house constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The three-by-two bay building faces northwest and is set back approximately forty feet from the road on a level lot. The building adopts a rectangular plan on a brick foundation. Typical of the style, the residence is capped by a side gambrel roof. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Full-width shed roof dormers are located on the lower roof planes. An interior brick chimney pierces the south roof plane near the ridge. The residence is clad with painted wood clapboards on the first floor and painted wood shingles on the dormer and in the gable ends. A one-story entry porch located at the east end of the facade marks the primary entrance to the building. The arched roof of the entry porch is supported by wood lattice on a raised wood deck. Two 4/1 double-hung wood sash windows are located to the west of the entry porch. The four-lights of the upper sash are aligned vertically. Each opening is set within a simple wood surround. A one-story, hipped roof wing projects out from the east elevation of the residence. A paired 4/1 double-hung wood sash window is featured on the north elevation of the wing. The four-lights of the upper sash are aligned vertically

A one-story, two-car garage is located to the southeast (AMH.1290). The garage rests on a concrete foundation. The pyramidal roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and is topped by a decorative cupola. The garage is clad with painted wood shingles. The front (northwest) elevation features a pair of overhead track garage doors. Each opening features a simple wood surround. One 4/1 double-hung wood sash window is featured on the north elevation of the wing. Like the residence, the four-lights of the upper sash are aligned vertically. A paved drive from Fearing Street leads to the garage, southeast of the house. A small gazebo was added to the rear of the garden in 2000. Its design echoes the garage's.

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 property was deeded in 1926 by Dora Fearing, widow of Henry D. Fearing, as Lot 17 in the subdivision of the Fearing Estate. The house was built ca. 1927, according to Town Assessor Records, for the buyers, Francis W. Powell (b. 1867) and his wife Nettie (B. 1870). At the time the house, identified as 12 Fearing Street, was surrounded by undeveloped land of the old estate. The new house was valued at \$6000 in a contemporary newspaper article.

Francis was employed as a janitor at the Odd Fellows Hall. Town Assessment records indicate the garage was built in 1951; however, the garage was probably built around the same time as the dwelling, as it appears on the 1930 Sanborn map. Francis and Nettie occupied 38 Fearing Street until 1940 when the property was sold to Luther and Emily Banta (HLR Deed 961/235). Banta was a professor and specialist in poultry husbandry at MAC/MSU at a time when poultry raising was a major industry in Massachusetts and popular in Amherst. The Bantas owned the property until 1980. (HLR 2178/279), when it was bought by the current owner.

This is one of three new houses on Fearing Street begun or completed in 1926, a banner year for residential construction in Amherst, according to the contemporary newspaper account.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst Deed and Plan Search 1968-2009 [online at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds]

Amherst Directories. [online at Ancestry.com]

Amherst Property Search; Assessor Database [online at amherst.gov]

Amherst Tax Records, 1880, 1890, 1900 [online at digitalamherst.org]

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Beers, F.W., "Amherst; North Amherst." New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1873.

Burleigh, L.R., "Amherst, Mass., 1886." (bird's eye lithograph).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Nov. 1887, June 1892, Nov. 1896, Aug. 1902, Aug. 1910, Jan. 1916, June 1930, June 1930-1950.

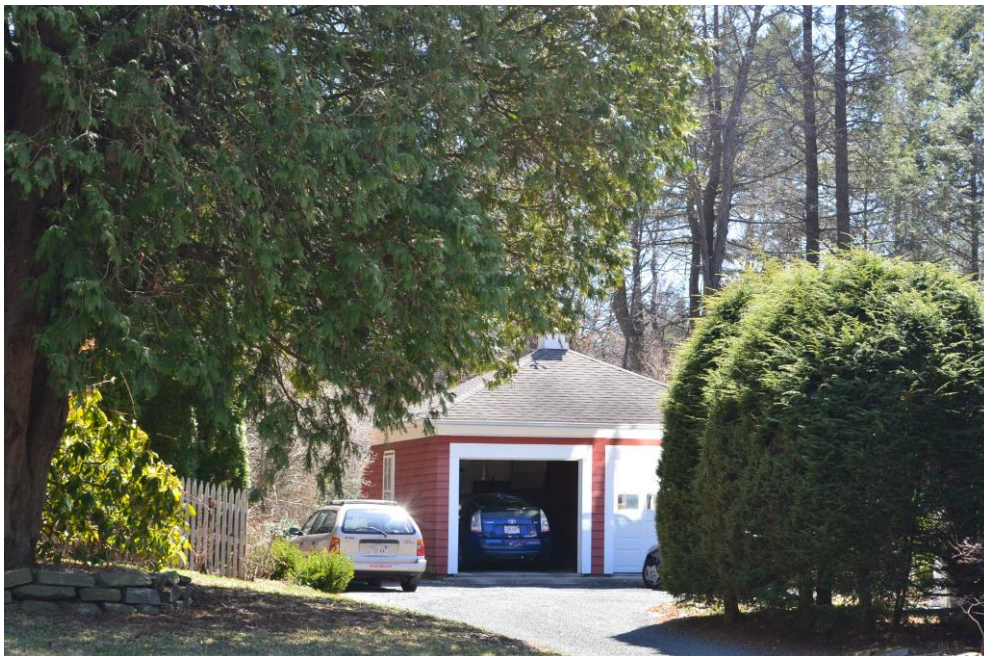
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Walling, Henry Francis. "A topographical map of Hampshire County Massachusetts." 1856. [online at <http://maps.bpl.org>]

"Record Amount of Building in Amherst," unidentified newspaper (*Springfield Republican?*), 15 January 1927. A clipping of this story is pasted into Vol. 2 of the Mrs. C. J. Fawcett scrapbooks, p. 6. They are housed in the Jones Library Special Collections.

Need citation of earlier Form Bs.



Garage AMH.1290

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