

# 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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**Town/City:** Amherst

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

**Address:** 140 Fearing Street

**Historic Name:** Warren Brown House

**Uses:** Present: Duplex

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Source:**

**Style/Form:** Expanded Carpenter/Colonial/Vernacular

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard

Roof: Asphalt composition

**Outbuildings:** none

**Major Alterations:** Creation of second residence, rear (date unknown)

**Condition:** N/A

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:** 1979

**Acreage:** .65 acre

**Setting:** Close to University of Massachusetts and dormitories, on a short block of four houses, plus the historic Amherst Creamery Co. structure, now a mixed-use commercial building.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Gretchen G. Fox

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date:** August 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST, MA

140 FEARING ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

The two-and-a-half-story, expanded Colonial-style residence of early twentieth century vintage, conforms with the small scale, wood-clad Vernacular style that predominates in this neighborhood. The careful proportions are notable; it is most likely a combination of contractors' book residences, popular at the time of its construction on nearby East Pleasant Street from which it was moved in 1979.

Its slightly stepped-back, west-gabled wing of two stories is three feet shy of the width of the front-gabled two-and-a-half-story main wing. Together their width is 39 feet. The front gable's ridgeline is broken, with hipped roof measuring c. seven feet at the base, lying directly over a shuttered set of triple windows of identical width. This matches the seven-foot spacing of the four, turned, Doric posts supporting the shed roof over the entrance porch, with its centered staircase filling that space. The porch extends the full width of the main wing. It adds ten feet to the total depth, 65 feet, of the house and its additional residence at the rear, added in 1989.

Copper sheathing covers the angled shed roof over the angled bay windows centered on the west wing, first floor. That roof echoes the hipped roof in dimensions. The double-front door has ten lights per side. Other windows are not small paned, but are single paned or 2/2 or 1/1. On the second floor, matching pairs of shuttered windows are spaced proportionate to the width of the wing. Framing is simple wood construction.

The two-and-a-half-story east wing rises about 25 feet on its site, and is set back 50 feet from the street, there being no sidewalk on the south side of Fearing Street. The entrance porch is approached from a six-step railed, wooden staircase. It is approached from a concrete walkway that leads from the driveway on the west side. The clapboard cladding of the house wraps around the porch base, rising to the full height of the porch railing from the concrete block foundation. At the excavated basement level on the west elevation, double garage doors are set in the foundation. A flight of concrete steps rises from basement to ground level at the rear. An exterior chimney of white painted concrete blocks rises toward the east elevation of the east wing; an older, brick chimney pierces the roof slightly behind the east wing.

Fenestration, shutters, and complete clapboard cladding give a sense of order and cohesiveness to the design of this large, two-winged, two-family residence. The details and proportions suggest a design more purposeful and singular than the usual Vernacular house design. Its original site on a significant block of East Pleasant Street may explain this.

## 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 Warren Brown House (1910) stood facing Lincoln Avenue on land that included this lot, just adjacent to it on the east side. Brown had owned this property since his purchase from Florence Washburn in 1934 (900/303). It comprised the western extension of his homestead, and, at one time, he, like many in the neighborhood, kept a small subsistence farm there, typical of a national trend at the time. Not coincidentally, that related to the development of Massachusetts Agricultural College into Massachusetts State University, located about two blocks north of this location.

Very close to the property line, Mr. Brown had built a significant two-story barn in the 1920s, which, it seems, evolved into a studio of sorts after he was no longer actively gardening. On his large tract's west side stood the Amherst Creamery Co.

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complex: the large, wooden house-like structure, later enclosed in brick, and enlarged into its present factory-like configuration. This house, without the rear, second residence addition, was moved to this location in 1978, after this lot had been sold that year to Roberts Development Association. Its original location was at 77 East Pleasant Street, on or near the corner of Triangle Street, a prominent location. The present owners added the rear, second residence in 1984, shortly after they purchased the house.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst Tax Records,

HLR "A Change in Address" photo with caption, *A-HR*, Feb 25, 1979

"The Amherst Creamery Churns its last". On closing, with photo of the frame house, AR July 7, 1971