

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: Amherst

Photograph



Address: 60 Fearing Street

Historic Name: William R. & Ada C. Hamlin House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c. 1937

Source: HLR

Style/Form: Cape/Cottage

Architect/Builder: Colonial Constriction Co.?

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick/concrete

Wall/Trim: Vinyl clapboard siding

Roof: Asphalt composition shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Frame shed, garage

Major Alterations Attached second unit (1968)

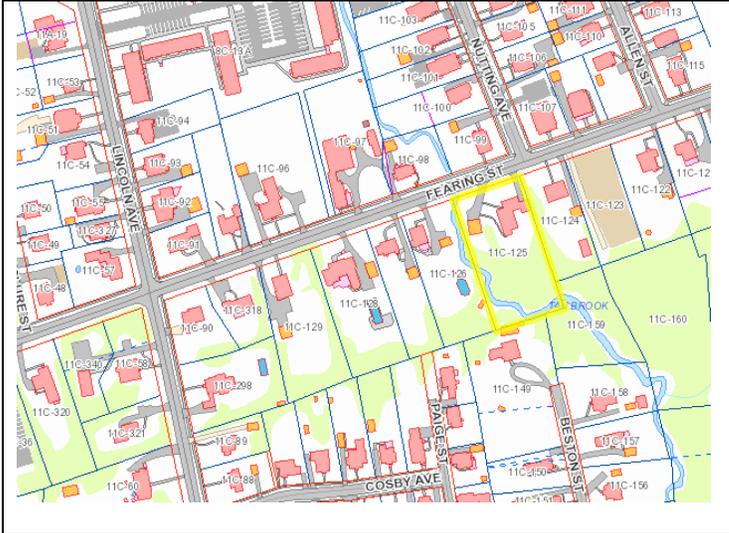
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1 acre

Setting: On a moderately busy street, residential single family neighborhood of houses dating from the earlier twentieth century. On the east bank of Tan Brook on a rural, wooded site, about a quarter mile south of the University of Massachusetts campus.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Gretchen Fox

Organization: LHDSC

Date October 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

60 FEARING STREET

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.

60 Fearing Street is a one-and-a-half-story, classic Cape Cod cottage. A significant, large central brick chimney pierces the roof at the ridge. Double sets of shuttered 9/9 windows flank the central entrance which has overdoor lights. Two windows on either end of the gable mark the half-story. A single car garage with overhead door and upper horizontal lights attaches to the east, just behind the rear door of the house, at the end of a paved driveway. The relatively low-lying Cape is very similar to those built by the Colonial Construction Company (see 24 McClure Street), but this modest (30-foot x 24-foot) classic cottage belies its two-family function. A recessed, 15-foot, west-gabled addition serves as the second unit's entry with 9/9 window to the left side of the door. It continues south under the gabled roof facing south for a total of 47 feet. Built in 1968, is actually larger than the original single-family house. The two units lie easily on the extra-large one-acre lot. The foundation of the original Cape is brick, the addition's is concrete. A quite separate, large dark-stained garage was constructed in 1983 on the far western portion of the lot, abutting Tan Brook, and would appear to have no relationship to the house in proximity or style. The house lies approximately 40 feet from the street.

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.

In August, 1929, Dora Fearing, widow of Henry Fearing, whose estate this land formerly was part of, deeded Lot 14 and the easterly half of Lot 13 of the "Fearing Extension" subdivision, to Ada C. and William R. Hamlin, clergyman. The Hamlins with their two children, John and Ruth, had owned and resided across the street at 61 Fearing Street from 1929 until 1938, according to Amherst directories. This was and remains the largest single lot then sold from the Fearing estate. No covenant requiring single-family residential building is recorded in that deed, as had been done in some earlier deeds (see 30 and 38 Fearing Streets). The Hamlins lived here from 1938 with one or both children, then in their 20s, for over 20 years. In 1944, Ruth gave her occupation as "Research" and her name had been changed to Ruth H. Flick. In 1950, they deeded the property to USAF Major David C. and Martha Sykes Hale, who lived here for eight years while he taught Military Science at the University of Massachusetts.

Tan Brook is a year-round watercourse flowing through this and 12 other properties and bordering five others between McClellan Street and UMass, including lots on North Pleasant Street, Beston Street, Fearing Street, and Nutting Avenue, as well as wooded lots west of North Pleasant Street. Its name derives from the tanneries, which once flanked the stream during the early nineteenth century, the area of which is now part of Kendrick Park. The brook's sources lie to the north and east, and were piped underground in the twentieth century, through the school grounds between Strong and Triangle Streets, beneath the East Pleasant Street commercial district, continuing under Kendrick Park and along McClellan Street. Until the arrival of piped sewerage, the brook served the north edge of the West Village for waste-water outflow, a reason for the more modest development of the neighborhood know by the Irish epithet, "the Curragh," a small boat or vessel. Downstream, Tan Brook waters the UMass pond and flows west through Hadley, until it empties into the Connecticut River.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst assessor's records
HLR 858/37, PB 3/93

Amherst directories 1927-1945.

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"Military Science" Yearbook, UMass, 1950, available on E-yearbook.com