

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

11C-340	Mt. Toby		AMH.
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**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place** Amherst

**Address:** 130 Fearing Street

**Historic Name:** Yankhua Fan & Marina Isayeva House

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

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 2013

**Source:** Tax records

**Style/Form:** Contractor Vernacular

**Architect/Builder:** N/A

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding

Roof: Asphalt composition

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

**Major Alterations**

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .23 acre

**Setting:** Near the University of Massachusetts, one of four residences on a short block of four other structures --- three residences and one mixed use commercial building dating from the nineteenth to turn off the twentieth century.

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Gretchen G. Fox

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date:** August 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST, MA

130 FEARING ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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

130 Fearing Street is a non-conforming residence in this proposed LHD. Like the two ranch houses in the Fearing Street block to its east, this recently built (2014) house takes its style (here, mixed-sized gable and cross-gable construction) from contractors' plan residences. But its large size and massing, and its very prominent front-gabled garage wing, clearly set it apart from its small scale, more conservative older neighbors with hidden or recessed garages typical of the older period.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

A 2013 (FY2014) subdivision of the large, heavily wooded lot that had once belonged to the writer/businessman Warren Brown, at the southwest corner of Lincoln Avenue and Fearing Street (see Form B, 290 Lincoln Avenue) created this building lot. The start of construction closely followed the demolition of the barn/studio to the rear of the Brown house. The rusticated building was a landmark of the neighborhood, rumored to have been Brown's storage for a subsistence farm he kept, thereafter his studio, and even the sometime studio of Brown's friend and neighbor on Sunset Avenue, Robert Frost. It was also said to have been built on the plan of a female designer.

These historic and aesthetic qualities were reasons for local preservation advocates to ask the Amherst Historic Commission for a delay in demolition. They argued that this particular barn's picturesque quality was reminiscent of the rural nature of the town and of the origins of the nearby University as Massachusetts Aggie.

The rapid replacement of Warren Brown's barn, recessed among large trees, with this very prominent new residence on a cleared lot gave further reason for local historians to give attention to the neighborhood's mixed built and natural history environment and its fragility. Moreover, the memory of this area of town as providing an unusual social and ethnic mix of important writers, members of the building trades, and business and University people was considered equally worth preserving. This single landscape transition was salient in the crystallization of interest in preserving the core of the North Prospect/Lincoln/Sunset LHD.

The demolition itself became a flashpoint for preservationists, who later understood that a census of remaining barns had been undertaken by the town's Planning Department at the Commission's urging.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hampshire Land Records  
Newspapers, TV coverage  
Amherst tax records