

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Amherst

Place: Amherst

Photograph



Address: 80 Fearing Street

Historic Name: None

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence
Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c. 1927

Source: HLR

Style/Form: Dutch Colonial Revival/Vernacular

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Enameled wood clapboard

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage

Major Alterations: Rear addition, kitchen and add'l room in progress (2015)

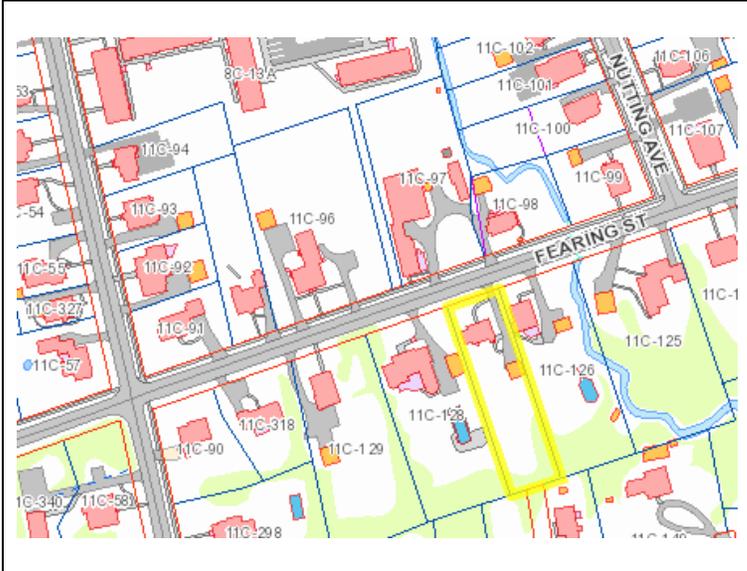
Condition: N/A

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: N/A

Setting: Stands on a slight incline from Tan Brook, which lies to the east, on the southern side of a tree-lined block of Vernacular houses from the mid-1920s.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Gretchen G. Fox

Organization: LHDSC

Date: October 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

80 FEARING ST

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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.

A Vernacular, Dutch, Colonial Revival design, two-and-a-half stories, with gambrel roof. A full width dormer runs across the front, extending from the main roof, with a slight roof overhang above the second story, from which a secondary roof extends eaves over the first story. This is a typical carpenters' book Dutch Revival design. A return-pedimented, Tuscan-columned portico shelters the side lighted central entrance. The house has two substantial brick chimneys, both interior: one central, south of the roof ridge, one at the ridge on the west side. On the west the recessed hip roofed side porch is another feature of most carpenter book houses of this era. The entire exterior was re-clad in enamel replacement clapboards in 2010, giving a clean, updated appearance. Two sash windows, 6/1 on the first floor and on the side porch; on the second, two 8/1 windows flank two smaller 4/1 centrally-placed windows; small 4/1 attic windows open at each end. The extension's front pair of windows are 6/1. All north and east side windows are shuttered. A two-car garage, built in accommodating style, sits to the southeast of the house, at the top of the driveway, facing the street.

The whole, with its slight roof overhangs, and strong horizontal lines, typical of this Dutch Revival styles, gives a gracious and roomy appearance to this house. These qualities are emphasized by the home's sitting on a rise from Tan Brook, several feet above street level. It helps create, along with its several neighbors on both sides of the street, a comfortable, unpretentious neighborhood ambience that such varying-styled houses of this period, particularly when they are gracefully spaced on large lots, easily achieved.

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.

Henry Fearing's widow, Dora, deeded this lot, a portion of Lots 11 and 12 in the "Fearing Extension," the development created from their elaborately landscaped estate, former in January 1927 to Phillip J. and Martha B. White. The lots on either side had already been acquired by those who would build homes on them also in accordance with the terms of most her deeds in this area, that only one residence and the necessary outbuildings be built upon them. The Whites deeded the lot with buildings just 18 months later to John H. and Muriel A. Vondell, he a professor of poultry husbandry at MAC. This was at a time when poultry husbandry was an important Amherst enterprise, and clearly of economic importance to the state. Prof. Vondell is well-remembered by Martha Fellers Averill, a lifetime resident on this block of Fearing Street, for being a close friend of her father (see 52 Fearing Street). Like so many of his colleagues, this member of the Massachusetts Agricultural College faculty chose to live near campus, in this large new house, which would easily accommodate his growing family: five children, ages 2-10, in 1930. By 1942, Muriel Vondell had died, and Esther H. Vondell had become John's wife and co-owner of the house, where they resided for the remaining 31 years. During that time, MAC grew to MSC and into a major university, drawing more who worked there into this convenient and pleasant neighborhood.

From 1962-1967, Carl and Dolores Schmaltz lived here. Known as Dick Schmaltz, he painted in watercolor and wrote several books on art, lectured widely, and taught at Amherst College (1967-1994), and for 20 years ran the popular Watercolor Workshop in Kennebunkport.

In 1971, second long term owners bought the house, Murray and Phyllis Eisenberg, he a professor of mathematics at UMass and she a teacher of chemistry at Amherst Regional High School for many years. They (with two sons) occupied the house for 42 years, and were active members of the neighborhood association (SPNA). In 2013, John and Laura Lewis purchased the property. The Lewises, both alumni of UMass, he a mechanical engineer and she a nurse, who earned a Master's degree at the University's School of Nursing in 2015. They are parents of two small children, continuing the strong tradition of UMass-affiliated

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families in this house. They are currently making a major addition to the rear of the house in 2015, adding a new kitchen and family room. They are active members of SPNA.

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", the receptacle. Downstream, Tan Brook waters the UMass pond and flows west through Hadley, until it empties into the Connecticut River.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

HLR

CEN1930

F.P.Rand, *The Village of Amherst*"Carl Schmaltz, Jr." Obituary, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

Interviews: Martha Averill, Murray Eisenberg, John Lewis, with Gretchen G. Fox

UMass Libraries Archives, SCUA, "John H. Vondell." Thanks to Caroline White, Kenneth Feinberg Archivist