

FORM B – BUILDING

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

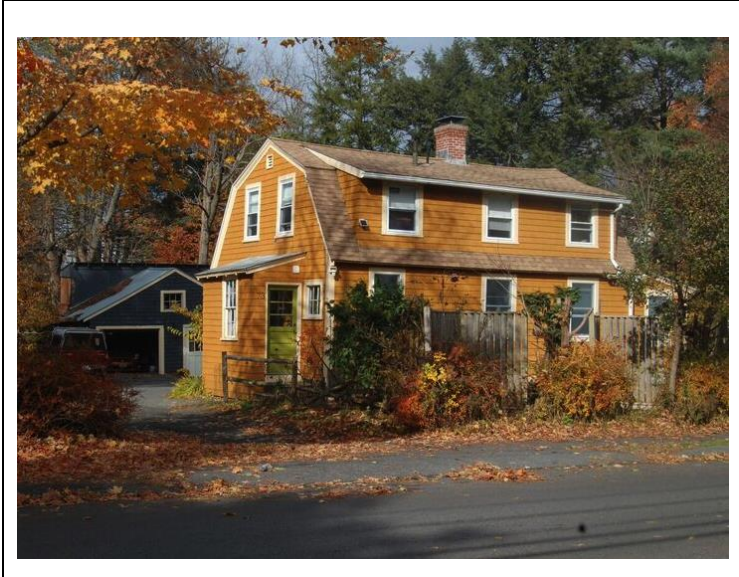
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

11C-98	Mt Toby	E	AMH.
--------	---------	---	------

Town/City Amherst

Neighborhood Amherst

Photograph



Address: 73 Fearing Street

Historic Name: Henry & Mary Hollis House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1912

Source: HLR

Style/Form: Cottage/Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Ashlar formed concrete blocks

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle

Roof: Asphalt composition shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage with attached storehouse; playhouse

Major Alterations: Entry moved from front to east side enclosed porch with deck walkway (1998)

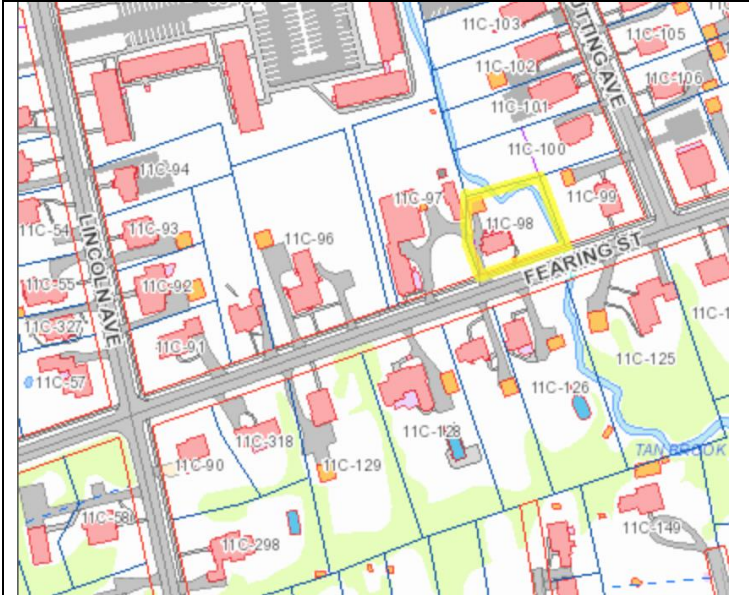
Condition: N/A

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: N/A

Setting: Faces a moderately busy street, at the top of the western bank of Tan Brook, a rustic setting in a residential neighborhood of similar Vernacular houses dating 1890s-1930s. About ¼ mi. south of central campus of University of Massachusetts.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Gretchen G. Fox (with Paige Wilder)

Organization: LHDSC

Date December 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

73 FEARING STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

73 Fearing Street is a three-bay, Colonial, Dutch Revival Cottage with two stories. The gambrel roof, shed dormer, and wood shingle cladding are typical of this Vernacular style in the early twentieth century. An interior brick chimney rises just offset to the east at the ridgeline. The foundation's concrete blocks are pressed with an ashlar design; also found on the Vondell house at 80 Fearing Street, directly opposite. The 30-foot front elevation is augmented by two recessed, shed roof additions: on the west a four-foot kitchen entry, extending 10 feet north, original to the house, with front-facing door. On the east, an eight-foot, single-story, recessed, enclosed porch extending 20 feet north to the rear line of the house, added in 1998. The front central entry was moved to this location in 1998, with wood decking walkway to the sidewalk. A seven-foot fence obscures the porch entry and the lower part of the front elevation. Because of this remodeling, the original symmetrical fenestration has been slightly disturbed, but window heights were not affected.

On the first floor, the upper, visible portions of the three original 1/1 windows lie below the shed dormer, with its three 1/1 windows under wide eaves. On the western elevation, largely visible from the street, a 3/3 kitchen window is set south of the kitchen entryway, with a 6/6 window centered in the entryway. The kitchen door has three lights. All windows are simply framed in wide wooden trim.

A wide, front-gabled, two-bay garage with concrete floor lies at the northwest rear of the house, with two sets of hinged doors. A storage shed/sleeping porch of one and half stories under a front-facing shed roof attaches to the rear of the garage. The garage is approached via a paved driveway that connects to the circular driveway of the house next door, reaching around the neighbor's large garden. This space adds to the rustic appearance of both residences. 73 Fearing Street lies above the western bank of Tan Brook, quickly running north. The garden of the farmhouse on the east leads to the opposite bank, also giving these immediate neighbors an unusually rural, wooded location in in the otherwise suburban style neighborhood.

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 house is situated on the southern portion of Lots 24 and 25 of S. A. Phillips' original subdivision plan (HLR 484/31). Stanley A. Phillips was a "tinner, plumber, steam & gas fitter" and owned the Grange Store on North Pleasant Street. Before 1937, this parcel was numbered 25 Fearing Street. For further description of the premises see "Map of Land of the Estate of F. Civile Pray" dated May 1927 by Frank C. Moore (resident of 10 Allen Street in 1928).

Lots 24 and 25 were then purchased by Henry A. Hollis (unmarried) in 1911 (HLR 675/ 482) and the house was built in 1912. In 1924, Hollis (of Florida) and his wife Mary sold the house to Gertrude H. and Richard A. Mellen of Arlington, Massachusetts (HLR 705/ 443). The property transferred to Helen Knowlton (unmarried) in 1926 (Book 829, p. 193). Helen Knowlton was an instructor at the MAC. The 1928 directory lists five occupants at 25 Fearing Street, including owner Helen Knowlton. In 1927, Knowlton sold the northern portion of Lots 24 and 25 to Ruth Legro McLaughlin who owned 14 Nutting Avenue for 50 years (1922-1972). In 1931, Helen Knowlton (unmarried) sold her house, including the southern portion of Lots 24 and 25 to Ella Frances and F. (Fry) Civile Pray.

Civile Pray was a prominent Amherst resident. He served as chairman of the Board of Selectman and was a member for 19 years from 1934-53 at a time when Amherst had a three member Select Board and all three members were Republicans described as staunch conservatives. He was also an employee of MAC. He was a member of the town's first playground committee c. 1939, whose first project was the construction of the Triangle Street Playground. In 1932, Ulysses G. Groff had donated to the town a 14-acre plot along the Freshman River, "an ideal site for a park". However, in 1947, Civile Pray, as a member of the playground committee, introduced Article 28 to Town Meeting, proposing the "unimproved, unused land" be

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

73 FEARING STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

auctioned. But Article 28 was defeated and Article 29, which recommended the park's development, succeeded. Improvements to Groff Park began in 1950.

In 1956, the property transferred to George L. and Edna F. Fleury, at which time a section of the adjoining property to the west was added to the lot (see Welcome/Fleury HLR 1238/110).



The last meeting, in 1954, of the three-man Board of Selectman - Messrs. Parsons, Colby, and Pray. From Essays on Amherst's History, page 338; The Vista Trust; 1978.

Tan Brook is a year-round watercourse flowing through this and 12 other properties and bordering five others between McClellan Street and the University of Massachusetts, 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
CEN 1940

SOURCES:

1940 U.S. Census

Amherst College archives

Amherst Property records
HLR

"Amherst College Buildings and Grounds: A brief Reference Manual, 1820 - 2007 Archives and Special Collections".

file://localhost/<https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/Buildings_and_grounds_taft_2007.pdf>

1906 Edition College of Agriculture Mass Agricultural College org. 1867 Vol. XXXIII, p. 85

1928 Amherst Directory

Amherst Life; Amherst College archives

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

73 FEARING STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E	
---	--

Annual Reports from the Town of Amherst for the year Ending February 1, 1905; Carpenter and Moorehouse Press; Amherst, MA 1905

Essays on Amherst's History 1978 The Vista Trust (publisher) Amherst, MA

The History of the Town of Amherst Massachusetts 1731-1896 Edward Wilton Carpenter, Charles Frederick Morehouse, 1896

Mass Agricultural College Catalogue 1914-15

Public Documents of Massachusetts - Annual Reports 1905 (Vol. IX)
Secretary of the Commonwealth; Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co.

Undergraduate Catalogue of Mass Ag Col. 1918
Public Document No. 31

Western Massachusetts; a history 1636-1925 (Vol. 4) John Hoyt Lockwood; Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York & Chicago