

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: 61 Fearing Street

Historic Name: Hattie C. Sargent House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c. 1909

Source: US Census

Style/Form: Farmhouse/Vernacular

Architect/Builder: N/A

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt composition shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage

Major Alterations: Rear extension and porch, visible from 19 Nutting Avenue (date unknown)

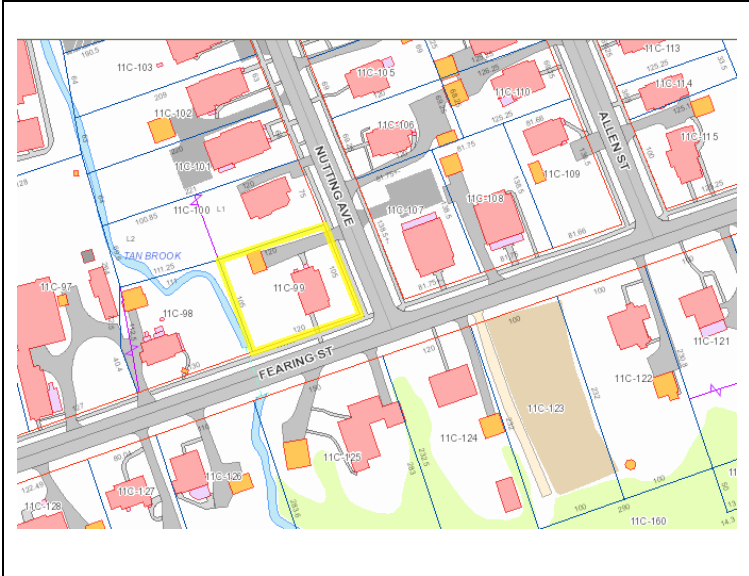
Condition: A

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .39 acre

Setting: Corner house fronts on moderately busy Fearing Street, east elevation on a quiet side street. In a neighborhood of suburban-style Vernacular houses of early twentieth century. Wooded western exposure slopes gently to the right bank of Tan Brook, running to the University of Massachusetts Pond, about 1/3 miles north.

Locus Map



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

Organization: LHDSC

Date: November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

61 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.

Amherst

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

61 Fearing Street (formerly 21 Fearing Street) is a Vernacular, two-and-half-story, side-hall plan farmhouse, typical of many in Amherst (see 283 Lincoln Avenue, 85 Fearing Street) but has notable refinements. The front gabled roof returns to create wide eaves extending around the perimeter of the house. The slightly sloping shed roof front porch indents a foot on each side, with three square-finished post supports, and narrower pilasters at either end. Five wooden steps lead to the wood decking porch floor. It is surrounded by a simple railing spanning the posts with end post at the single stop at the west, entrance side. Wood frame with lattice inset supports the porch. The reduced fenestration system of two bays on the 25-foot wide elevation leaves a broad expanse of clapboard cladding with simple framing boards matching the window framing. All windows are double hung sash, 2/1, the muntins vertical. Double windows under the gable mark the half story; a large picture window on the east side of the first story under the porch roof replaces what was probably a sash window.

A rear kitchen extension and porch, finished in 1997 and visible from Nutting Avenue, keeps the style of the house. A stovepipe chimney pierces the roof on the central east side; a corbelled brick chimney straddles the roof ridge west of it. A two-bay garage, with end gabled roof toward the paved driveway off Nutting Avenue, is windowed on three sides, and has overhead retractable doors with lights. The garden to the west slopes gently to the west bank of Tan Brook, and is fenced with board and lattice top fence on the Fearing Street exposure.

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.

This property was originally Lots 22 and 23 of Stanley A. Phillips subdivision (HLR484/31), created from a part of Henry Fearing's large property, the northeast portion of the old Lyman/Henderson Farm. Until 1937, the house was numbered 21 Fearing Street.

Hattie C. Sargent (b. 1843) acquired this property from Stanley Phillips, according to HLR 635/289, the following deed by which, in 1908, she divided the parcel, selling the northerly section of Lots 22 and 23 to Albion B. Allen and George S. Allen. They were very prominent Amherst residents who constructed many of the original buildings on the MAC campus and at Amherst College (see 14 Nutting Avenue, Form B). As late as late as 1909, Hattie is listed in the town directory as living two doors down Fearing Street at 17 Fearing Street (see 47 Fearing Street, Form B). But by 1910, she is listed in the Amherst Directory and in the US Census as living here, at age 67, with her sister, Augusta, age 65. By then, Albion Allen has built a house next door on Nutting Avenue and, in 1914, he remarries and lives there with Edna E. Shepard. In 1928, Augusta is listed as the sole occupant of 21 Fearing Street, though Hattie may have lived here as well. However, the first mention of a house in the deed records is not until 1929, when Augusta, at age 78, sells "the land with the buildings thereon" to Ada C. and William R. Hamlin. By 1930, Hattie is rooming at 3 Allen Street. Hattie and Augusta Sargent are both members of the American Institute of Instruction (see Journal of Proceedings; Boston, MA; 1877). The Hamlins owned the property and lived there with their two children, John and Ruth, from 1929 until 1938, having moved that year to the smaller Cape cottage they built across the street, at 60 Fearing Street. The house was occupied by tenants until 1945, when they sold the house to Cora B. and John G. Archibald (Professor of Chemistry, MSC).

1938-39 Amherst directories and 1940 US Census shows Dorothy and Harold Boutelle (Professor of Mathematics, State College), and their 15-year-old daughter, Betty, lived at 61 Fearing Street, apparently tenants of the Hamlins. The Boutelles previously owned a house at 19 Woodside Avenue. In 1942-1944, Robert and Emily F. Betts are listed at this address, he in the US Service and she in defense work. The directory shows that in 1945, Alfred and Deborah Gniffe, who had lived at 321 Lincoln Avenue in 1944, lived here; his occupation is listed as "Prin."

Tan Brook is a year-round watercourse flowing through this and twelve 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

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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 University of Massachusetts pond and flows west through Hadley, until it empties into the Connecticut River.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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