

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

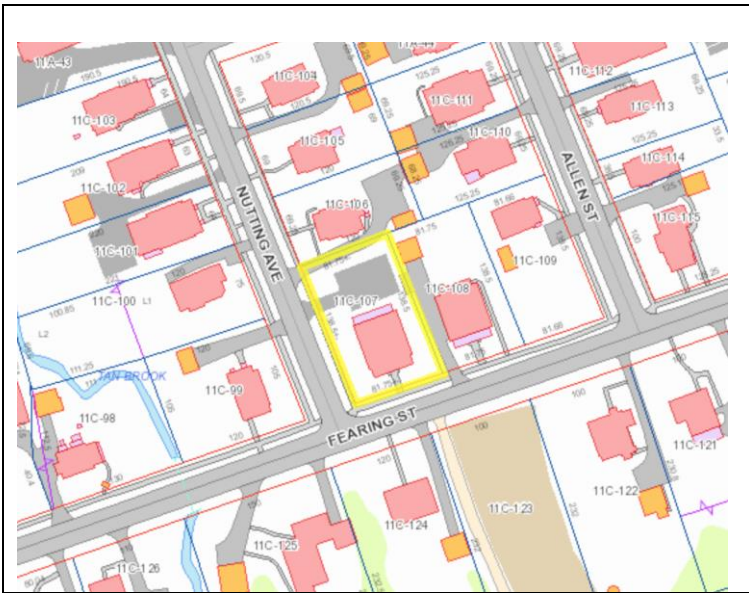
Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

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## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Amherst

**Address:** 47 Fearing Street

**Historic Name:** Daniel W. Dickinson Homestead

**Uses:** Present: Three-Family Residence

Original: Two-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** c. 1909

**Source:** HLR deeds, US Census (1910)

**Style/Form:** Foursquare/Vernacular

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl clapboard

Roof: Asphalt composition shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): At rear, third floor, full width dormer with exit to new balcony with support framing to replacement porch first floor (date unknown)

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .26 acre

**Setting:** Largely single-family residential neighborhood, facing a moderately busy, tree-lined street, corner of a quiet deadend street that leading to a path to the University. Next door residence to east is a near twin, multi-family house.

**Recorded by:** Gretchen G. Fox

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** November 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

47-49 FEARING ST

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.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

47 Fearing Street, on the corner of Nutting Avenue, is a Vernacular, Foursquare, side-by-side double house, carpenter-built in 1909. It is a near twin to the multi-family house next door, 43 Fearing Street. The large, hip roof structure clearly states its original function as two identical dwellings that mirror each other, today rented as three units. The total structure measures 37 feet wide by 41 feet deep. Its corner location allows visibility of the structure's west and north elevations.

Accommodating the high ceilings customary of its time, its notable height is emphasized by white vinyl clapboard siding, and two third-story shed roof dormers with particularly narrow double windows. The three other dormers, one on each of the other three sides, have windows matching those on the rest of the house. All the dormers rise just above the eaves overhanging the second story. The rear, northern dormer running the full width of the north hipped roof has three windows and a door to a balcony, all of more recent construction, including support framing that carries to the first floor rear porch, also of recent re-construction, having a brick foundation on the western end.

On the first story of the front, south elevation, fenestration uses the entry doors as openings under the single windows above, and larger pairs of windows on either side, framed with wider boards. First-floor windows are proportionately longer. These wider, double windows appear again at the southern end of both the east and west elevations. All other windows are regularly placed across the other three elevations, with doors to each first floor units giving on to the rear, full-width railed porch. All windows are 1/1 double hung sash; all openings are framed with simple surrounds.

The shed roof front porch is the single decorative feature of this house. It is eight feet deep and runs just shy of the full width of the front elevation. Five wooden Tuscan columns support the porch roof. A simple railing surrounds the wood decking porch floor, stopping at the top of four concrete stairs running parallel to the porch, with thin iron-railed banister. Vertical vinyl siding covers the brick foundation of the porch.

About 15 inches above grade, three half-windows along the brick foundation light the basement. A rear parking lot is approached from Nutting Avenue. Two corbelled chimneys at the rear of the house rise at the north intersection of dormers and roof on either side.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Houses in the Fearing Street and Nutting Avenue area of this neighborhood were built in response to the growth of MAC before WWI, as both residences and as investments. 47/49 Fearing Street (originally 17 and 19 Fearing Street) was built in 1909 by Daniel W. Dickinson as his own homestead, according to the HRL Deed 965/110. This lot, Lot 19 of the Stanley Phillips subdivision of Henry Fearing's former property, had been held for two months by Edward A. White (possibly son of Michael White, Fearing's neighbor to the south along North Pleasant Street? Check w/ EW), who purchased it in October 1908 from Phillips.

On December 1908, White sold it to DWD (1851-1932), son of Waitstill and Mercy Dickinson (both parents were Dickinsons, children of Oliver and Lt. Enos, respectively) of South Amherst, where he grew up one of eleven children, helping in his father's general store. In the late 1880s and 1890s, DWD owned and operated a successful wholesale meat and provisions store on Shays Street, where he lived with his second wife, Annie E. Jenkins (m. 1895). He served on the Board of Selectmen/Overseer of the Poor for thirteen years, 1893-1906. In 1910, they moved into 19 Fearing Street, the western half of their new home.

DWD is shown in US Census records and Amherst street directories as living at 19 Fearing Street continuously as "Retired," until 1932, the year of his death. From 1933 until WWII, Mrs. Esther Cutler, assistant town clerk, resided at 19 Fearing Street with her two children, before it was rented in 1942 to Edward Martin, "AAA Fieldman," a designation also of other members of

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the MSC military science department residing in this neighborhood close to the land grant college, with its requirement that men students enroll in that program.

A fairly stable succession of families resided during the early twentieth century at 17 Fearing Street, the eastern mirror of DWD's home: most notably Brooks D. Drain, assistant professor of pomology, MAC, in the early years, and Harry G. Lindquist listed as "teacher, MAC/MSC," the customary census listings for faculty throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

In 1942, the house was deeded by the Trustees of the Daniel W. Dickinson Fund of the local Pacific Masonic Lodge, which presumably had inherited the homestead under DWD's will. The buyers were Earl and Vertene Shumway, who held it until 1946, keeping the same tenants in both units.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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