

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

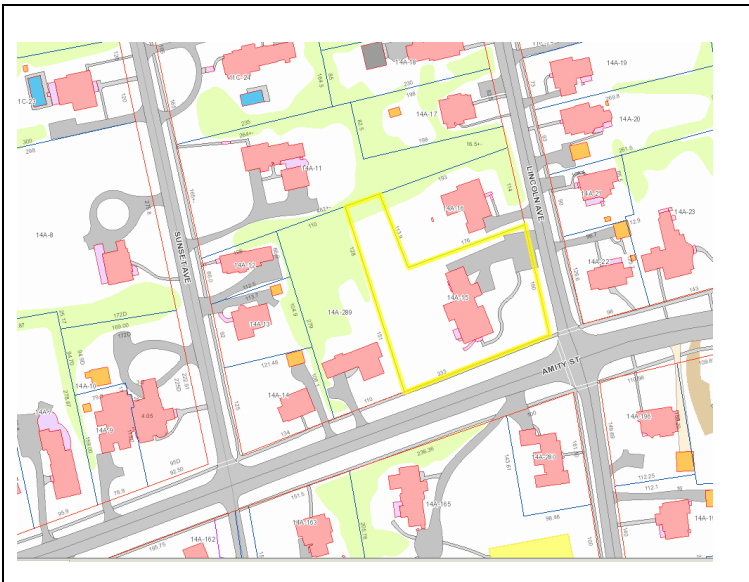
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Lincoln-Sunset National Register District

**Address:** 219 Amity Street

**Historic Name:** Thomas Jones/Eugene Field House

**Uses:** Present: Student Housing

Original: Single-Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1839

**Source:** Deeds, valuations

**Style/Form:** Colonial/Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Robert Cutler

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/wood flushboard

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): West porch destroyed (1938)

**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .95 acre

**Setting:** Residential, rural college town.

**Recorded by:** Steve Bloom

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): September 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

219 AMITY ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.*

This house has a gable roof with full returns that form pediments. Two-and-a-half stories in height, it has a three-bay, flushboard façade similar to the other Greek Revival-style homes in the district. Its center entrance has a balustraded portico on Doric columns. A twentieth-century garage is located to the northeast of the lot.

The house has clapboards on all sides but the front, where the boards are flat, laid edge-to-edge. This front feature, along with the pillared and roofed portico, suggests the Greek Revival style. Most of the old houses eastward from this one along Amity Street are all clapboard in the Colonial tradition.

**\*\*SELECTED TO NATIONAL REGISTER (2/22/1993)\*\***

## 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 was one of the first homes in the district erected for Thomas Jones, a wealthy nineteenth-century entrepreneur. Jones, from Enfield, Connecticut, moved to Amherst to be associated with his father in a North Amherst textile mill. He purchased the Boltwood home site, on the west corner of Amity Street and Lincoln Avenue. That house was moved slightly to the west by the Cutlers. On the vacated site, Jones contracted with Robert Cutler on April 26, 1839, to construct a dwelling house 42 feet X 38 feet, two stories high, to be done "as good style as the house of Mr. Luke Sweetser, with the shutters to seven windows below and in every respect as well finished as the house built for Mr. Sweetser."

Robert Cutler, an established builder in Amherst, built the house for Thomas Jones, merchant and member of the General Court, in 1836 (see plaque on house). It was built with flat boards in front boards in front and a balustraded porch on the west, which was destroyed by a hurricane in 1938. The home passed from Thomas Jones' wife, to Thomas Jones' stepdaughter, Mary Field French.

In 1864, the year before the present stone church was built on Boltwood Avenue, a group of Episcopalians met at the Eugene Field House and organized themselves as Grace Church. Mrs. Mary Jones, widow of Thomas Jones, was active in civic and religious affairs. Mrs. Jones maintained close ties to the Episcopal Reverend Bishop Huntington of Hadley and, in 1864, the group of Amherst men met at her Amity Street residence and organized the Grace Episcopal Church of Amherst. Eugene Field, nineteenth-century author and nephew of Mrs. Jones, boarded with his aunt from 1856-1865. Two other writers, Ray Stannard Baker and Mary Heaton Vorse, occupied the home at different times.

Eugene Field (1850-1895), a journalist and children's poet, is perhaps best known for the fantasy poem, "Wynken, Blynken and Nod."

Ray Stannard Baker (1870-1946), an early muckraking journalist, wrote a Pulitzer Prize winning biographer of Woodrow Wilson. Under the pen name David Grayson, he wrote about his gardening and beekeeping.

Mary Heaton Vorse (1874-1966) was a journalist, labor activist, novelist, and pioneering feminist.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Deeds; Valuations