

# 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:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Amherst Center

**Address:** 151 Amity Street

**Historic Name:** Edward B. Marsh House

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

**Date of Construction:** 1895

**Source:**

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Charles E. Park

**Exterior Material:** stucco and wood shingle

Foundation: Brick above ground, likely fieldstone beneath

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Converted to condos with many additions (prior to 2008)

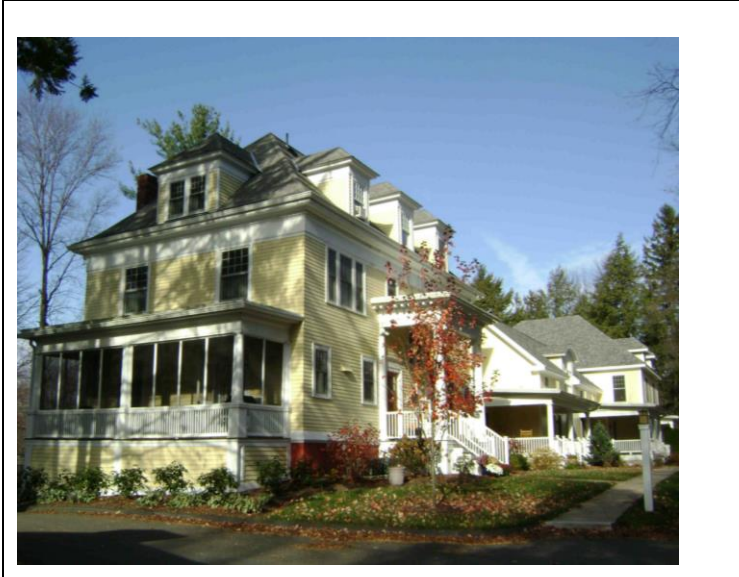
**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no     yes     **Date:**

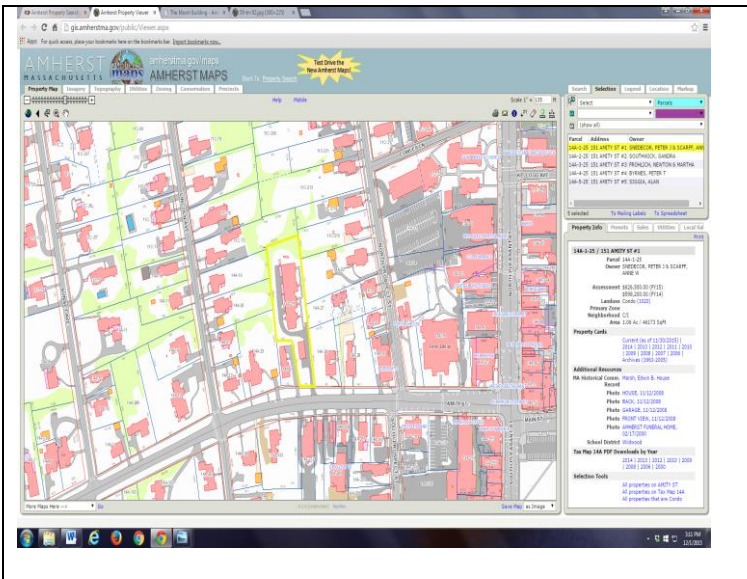
**Acreage:** 1.06 acres

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Steve Bloom

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): January 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

151 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 is one of the many Colonial Revival structures in Amherst Center, clustered mainly in the Lincoln Avenue-Amity Street area. However, this is among the biggest. The common elements on many are hipped roof with dormers, symmetrical façade, and accented front entry on a large-scale building. This example has tripartite windows and a particularly nice stained-glass window in the entry.

## 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 building appears on the 1910 map for the first time, labeled Phi Kappa Psi House. Built in 1895, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Marsh commissioned architect Charles E. Park to design 151 Amity Street for their son Edward. The Marsh family, whose roots date back to the 1700s, was noted for the manufacturing of children's carriages, and operated a furniture store and a funeral parlor. Both businesses were housed on the Marsh Block—26 Main Street, Amherst—from 1869 through 1930. After graduating in 1876 from Amherst College, Edward stayed on as an instructor, assistant librarian, and registrar. In the fall of 1895, he sold 151 Amity Street to Amherst College to house the fraternal order of Phi Kappa Psi. Mr. Marsh continued to reside at 151 Amity Street along with other instructors and students. In 1922, the residence returned to serve as the single-family residence of William Machmer. It was the Amherst Funeral Home from 1975-2008 prior to being converted to a condominium in 2008.

Charles E. Park was the architect for the Barrett Gym, now known as Pratt Gym and for William Hall—both located at Amherst College.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps 1902, 1910  
Amherst Street Lists

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Form B (1988), online in the MACRIS database