

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

Town/City: Amherst

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Amherst

Photograph



Address: 85 Amity Street

Historic Name: John Emerson Strong House/The Perry (20th Century)

Uses: Present: Apartment Building

Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1825 (front of building)

Source: Amherst deeds

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/Federal

Architect/Builder: John Emerson Strong

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown, probably fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Stucco, originally clapboard

Roof: Rolled composition

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Was a hotel previously (1902-1985); complete restoration (1990s); back building added (early 20th Century); front raised by 4 stories (c. 1916); Stucco added (by 1930s)

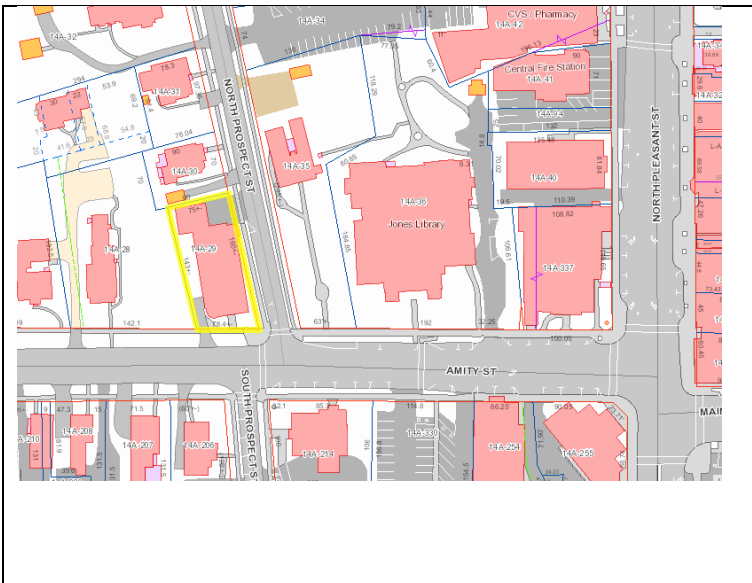
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .28 acre

Setting: Residential, near town center of a rural college town.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Ed Wilfert

Organization: LHDSC

Date (*month / year*): February 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

85 AMITY ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

Four-story Federal, Colonial Revival with Stucco cladding, flat roof, and wraparound porch. Plain casement windows and front door with fan light on top.

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.

Originally built in 1825 by John Emerson Strong on his father Simeon's land. Owned by Amherst College (1828-1831); Gideon Delano (1831-1852); Martin Stoddard (1852-1856); Professor Joseph Haven (1856-1859); Mirick N. Spear (1859-1864); Henry A. Marsh (1864-1872); Levi Stockbridge (1872-1880); Melvina Lessey and children (1880-1901). Purchased in 1901 by Egbert and Nellie Perry, who turned the building into a hotel, the Prospect House. The Perrys enlarged and renamed the structure "The Perry Hotel." In 1917, it was sold to William and Ann Richter, former New York hoteliers, who, in 1938, made renovations, including a bar and a rathskeller, in addition to a dining room, and renamed the building, "The Drake Hotel." Later, c. 1960, it was known as the Village Inn. The building was turning into apartments in 1985.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amherst Deeds, 49/723, 728; 54/32