NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 4 1984

date entered JUL 5 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Strong House

and/or common The Strong House

2. Location

street & number 67 Amity Street N/A not for publication

city, town Amherst N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampshire code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	X educational	X private residence*
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	n/a being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other:

4. Owner of Property

*Caretaker's apartment

name Amherst Historical Society

street & number 67 Amity Street

city, town Amherst N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampshire County Registry of Deeds

street & number 33 King Street

city, town Northampton state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #B50 has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1974 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA 02108

7. Description Strong House 67 Amity Street, Amherst, MA

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
x good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Strong House is located at the corner of Amity and North Prospect Streets, one block west of the center of Amherst. The house is situated approximately 190 feet from the street, facing south. The configuration of the lot is unusual, with a long, narrow corridor extending back to a double width plot. An eighteenth century garden graces the northeast section of the land behind the house. To the left of the front doorway stands a huge sycamore, the surviving member of a pair planted more than 200 years ago.

The Strong House has undergone several tansformations since its construction in 1744, including enlargement, rearrangement and embellishment during the 1760's, '80's, and '90's, the 1850's and during the twentieth century. These changes reflect the history of eighteenth century Connecticut River Valley architecture, and add to the significant architectural qualities of the house.

As originally constructed, the house was a two story one room deep structure with a center chimney plan and rear lean-to kitchen (northeast). Sometime after 1761, a one story ell was attached to the southwest corner of the house; this ell was moved to the rear of the house before the end of the century. In the 1790's the house underwent major changes and assumed much of its present appearance. These changes included expansion to a two room deep plan, conversion to a gambrel roof form to allow full use of the attic story, addition of a Doric entry and dentilated window caps as well as more eleborate interior paneling. Attic rooms were finished and Greek Revival style mantels and interior doors were added in the 1850's.

Presently, the house is a two story, two room deep structure with a center chimney rising through a gambrel roof. It stands on a rough fieldstone foundation and appears to retain much of its early, if not original, clapboard siding with simple corner boards. Windows generally contain 6/6 sash; those at the second story and on the rear elevation have simple molded surrounds while others are elaborated by pulvinated friezes, dentil courses and cavetto caps.

The facade (south) is symmetrically organized around a rather high style late Georgian center portico consisting of fluted Doric columns supporting a full entablature and triangular pediment. This is flanked by two windows on each side with the above described decorative caps. Vertically aligned above these five openings are the second story windows which are set directly below a modillion cornice and pulvinated frieze.

Attached to the east elevation is an open porch, probably dating from the early 20th century. Attached to the north (rear) elevation is a large two story ell (west side) added in 1847 and a smaller one story ell (east side) which may date from the 18th century. The large ell has 12/12 sash at the first floor; all but two other windows contain 6/6 sash. A 20th century garage (NC) is also located on the property.

8. Significance Strong House 67 Amity Street, Amherst, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	X archeology-historic	___ conservation	X law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	X exploration/settlement	X philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1744 **Builder/Architect** Strong House

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Strong House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The structural evolution of the Strong House parallels the history of the Strong family, notable in Amherst history, as well as the development of the community itself. Built in 1744, the original structure of the house pre-dates the founding of Amherst by fifteen years. The house also provides a well-preserved example of eighteenth century Connecticut Valley architecture. Thus the Strong House meets criteria A,B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The land on which the Strong House stands was part of the original grant for the town of Hadley, MA. Although distributed and surveyed for the residents of Hadley in 1703, the area was not occupied or developed until around 1728.

The house is traditionally ascribed a date of 1744, when it is believed that Nehemiah Strong constructed a 2 1/2 story gable roofed structure with a center chimney plan. Visual analysis and comparison with other Connecticut River Valley houses of the mid-18th century support this ascertion. In 1761, Nehemiah deeded the house, a barn and land to his son Simeon who lived in the house until his death in 1805. Simeon, who became one of the town's most prominent and wealthiest citizens, updated the house, probably in the late 18th century. Notable late Georgian features added by Simeon include the gambrel roof, pedimented entry supported on fluted Doric columns, first floor window caps consisting of a pulvinated frieze, dentil course and heavy cavetto molding, as well as interior paneling.

A 1756 graduate of Yale College, Simeon studied law with Col. John Worthington, a distinguished resident of Springfield, before plunging into a very active practice in Amherst. His office was originally located in a wing of the house. He soon became involved in state and local civic affairs, serving as Town Clerk from 1763-1766, as Town Treasurer from 1764-1774, and as a Representative to the Massachusetts General Court during 1767 and 1769. In 1768, he was appointed Justice of the Peace, but he lost the position as a result of his Tory sympathies, which were expressed in the form of holding Tory meetings at the Strong House. Simeon again served in the Massachusetts General Court, as a Senator, during 1792 and 1793. In 1800 he became a Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Harvard College awarded him an honorary L.L.D. in 1805. He died later that year, leaving half of the house, land and other buildings to his son Simeon, Jr. and the other half to his wife, Simeon Jr.'s stepmother. (Cont.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Judd, Sylvester. The History of Hadley, Massachusetts, New Hampshire Publishing Co., Somerworth, N.H., 1976

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .76 a.

Quadrangle name Mt. Toby, Massachusetts

Quadrangle scale 1:2500

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	704030	469428 0
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached assessor's map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mari L. Myer, Program Assistant with Mary Elizabeth Bernhard and Antoinette E. Tomasik, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Comm. date February 9, 1984

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L Weslowski

title date 5/22/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Delores Byrd date 7/5/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 894-785

Historical significance (Cont.)

Simeon Jr. graduated from Yale in 1786 and practiced law in Conway and Amherst. He served as a Representative to the General Court during 1809 and 1812-14. His son, Simeon E. Strong, later acquired the estate and sold it in 1845 to Osmyn Baker.

Although Judge Simeon Strong was the most prominent, others in his family were also distinctive. His brother Nehemiah (1730-1807) graduated from Yale in 1755, became a parish minister in Connecticut, and subsequently served as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Yale between 1770 and 1781. He later studied law and was admitted to the Bar. Simeon's sister Mary (1732-1814) married Solomon Boltwood, a member of a family destined to be distinguished in the annals of Amherst.

Of Simeon's four sons who grew to adulthood, all attended college, studied law, and were admitted to the Bar. Simeon Jr. has already been discussed. Hezekiah Wright Strong, a graduate of Yale, settled in Amherst after practicing law in Deerfield. Active in town affairs, he kept a store and served as Postmaster for a time. He energetically promoted the establishment of Amherst Academy where his daughter, Sarah Sophie Strong, later taught. John Strong, an alumnus of Williams College, served as Justice of the Peace and engaged in farming. Solomon Strong, also a graduate of Williams College, practiced law in Royalston, Athol, Westminster and Leominster, and served in Congress during 1815-1819. In 1818 he became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Apparently he performed his duties simultaneously as both Judge and Member of Congress during 1818-1819. Caleb Strong, Governor of Massachusetts 1800-1807 and 1812-1816, was a cousin of the Amherst Strongs.

After the Strong House passed from the original family in 1845 it went through several changes in ownership. Osmyn Baker, the buyer in 1845, sold the land, house and barn to George S. Woodman, who sold the property to Sarah E. Emerson in 1853. In June, 1899, the D.A.R. began renting the large rear ell of the Strong House from Mrs. Emerson. The Amherst Historical Society inherited the property from the Emerson family in 1916, with the understanding that the local D.A.R. would continue to be allowed to use the large extension. The house is maintained as a musuem and is open to the public during the summer months.

The land on which the Strong House sits should be considered as sensitive for the presence of subsurface structural remains, discrete and scattered trash deposits and evidence of past landscaping. Research oriented locational surveys and excavation using archaelolgical techniques may greatly increase our understanding of the site's history. Investigations in the immediate vicinity of the house could well substantiate conjective original construction and later alteration dates; surrounding areas may produce data to answer a variety of questions relating to past lifeways.

ASSESSORS MAP

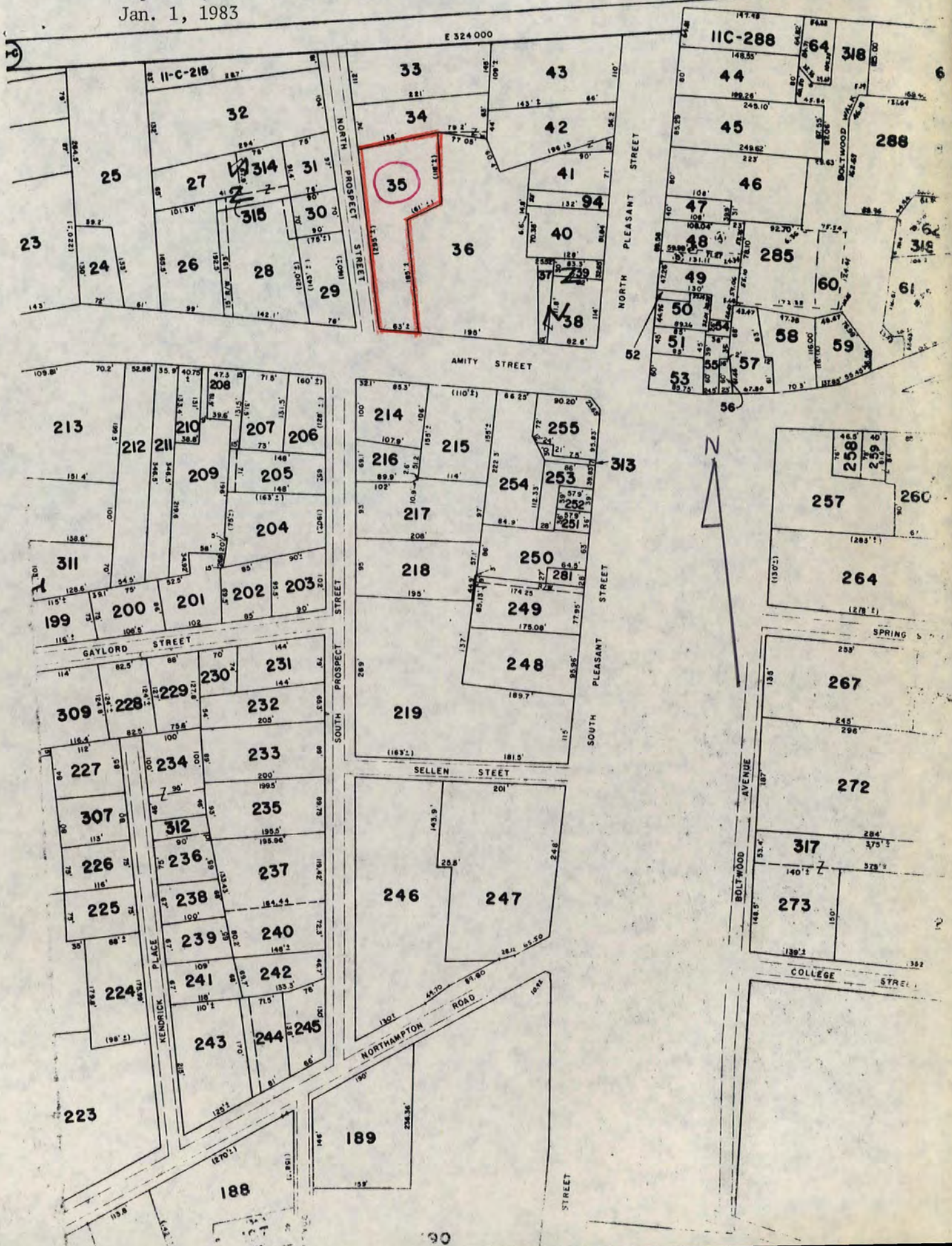
From: The Town Hall, Amherst, Massachusetts

Map 14-A; Lot 35 - The Strong House

Jan. 1, 1983

0 100 200 300 400 FEET

Land area = 33,214 sq. ft.



WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Strong House
Hampshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84
Action: ✓ ACCEPT 7-5-84
___ RETURN
___ REJECT
Federal Agency: ___

Entered in the
National Register

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ___
Reviewer ___
Discipline ___
Date ___
___ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ___ technical corrections cited below
___ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date ___
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Strong House
67 Amity Street
Amherst, Ma.

South elevation
Credit: John Martin, 1983
Negative: Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.
26 Central St.
West Springfield, Ma.

To: The Mass. Historical Commission
From: Mary Elizabeth K. Bernhard

A Photograph of the Strong House in Amherst taken by John Martin - September 1983.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MT. TOBY QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Strong House
Amherst, Ma.

UTM:
18/704030/4694280

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1935. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

STRONG HOUSE

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MT. TOBY, MASS.
N4222.5—W7230/7.5

1971

AMS 6468 I NE—SERIES V814

Town of

AMHERST Massachusetts

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 1, 1984

RECEIVED
MAY - 2 1984
MASS. HIST. COMM.

Ms. Valerie A. Talmage, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Ma. 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

The Board of Selectmen strongly supports the Historical Commission's application for placing the Strong House on the National Register for Historic Places. The House is important to the Town's history and to its present. It has become an integral and important part of a downtown that is beginning to change rapidly. We ask you to support Amherst's application.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Griffith

Barbara Griffith
Chairwoman

BG:my

Town of

AMHERST Massachusetts

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 22, 1984

National Register Office
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We are very pleased that the Strong House, 67 Amity Street, Amherst, Ma., has been voted eligible by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and has been submitted to you for consideration.

The Amherst Board of Selectmen strongly supports the listing of this property in the National Register of Historic Places. The House is important to the Town's history and to its present. It has become an integral and important part of a downtown that is beginning to change rapidly. We ask for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Griffith

Barbara K. Griffith
Chaitwoman

BG:my

Rec'd
MAY 29 1984