

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Hampden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Edward Bellamy House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
91-93 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicopee Falls

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: COUNTY: Hampden CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Joseph La Vallee

STREET AND NUMBER:
91 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicopee Falls

STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicopee

STATE: Massachusetts CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Bellamy House at 91 Church Street is a two story, white clapboard structure with a gable roof and three bays on the front, or northwest, elevation of its main section. The doorway, in the right-hand bay, is flanked by Roman Doric pilasters and has rectangular sidelights and a transom. It is set behind a wooden, single story porch with four slender turned columns and a flat roof, which extends across the front of this section. The cornice also extends across the whole front, forming a pediment in which is set a circular window.

To the south of the main section is a two bay, two story wing with a cross gable roof. This wing has its own doorway (with the street number 93), which is reached through a single story entrance porch with a shed roof. To the south of the wing is a single story extension with two windows facing the front.

The northeast elevation of the main section has a single window and a bay window on the first floor, and three windows on the second floor. The rear of the house has two ells with gable roofs. One of these has a single story and projects from the main section; the other has two stories and projects from the wing. The rear of the extension to the south of the wing has a large studio window which projects above the level of the eaves. The house has four interior chimnies, one in the main section, one in the wing, and one in each of the two ells.

The front entrance leads into a small stair hall, to the left of which is the parlor, which has a fireplace with a black marble mantle and a grate for coal or charcoal. Behind the parlor is the dining room, with a matching fireplace. In the kitchen, which occupies the more northern ell, the fireplace has been bricked up. That part of the kitchen ell which projects beyond the chimney is probably not original, but may have been added during Bellamy's residence. Upstairs, the main section has three bedrooms, one of which is presently used for storage. The bedroom at the eastern corner has a built-in desk and bookcases, and may have once been a study. In this room, the wide board floors have been left exposed, while in the other two bedrooms they are covered with linoleum. On this floor the wing and its ell have four rooms and a back stairway, all presently unused. The plan of both these rooms and the principle rooms in the main section appears to be unaltered.

The first floor of the wing, its ell, and its southern extension, form a separate dwelling, which may be reached through a door in the front stair hall. This apartment consists of four large rooms in space formerly occupied by at least six smaller rooms.

Following Edward Bellamy's death in 1898, the house remained in the possession of his family for several years. In 1905 it was purchased by a photographer by the name of Hannifan, who made the internal division into two sections, using number 93 for his business. He replaced a small extension at the south end of the wing with the present larger one, which has the studio window at the rear. He replaced the barn behind the house

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although he produced several fine novels, Edward Bellamy's historical significance rests primarily upon his Looking Backward (1888). The importance of this book was both political and literary. As an expression of utopian socialism, it created a nationwide movement and has been called the "focus ... of the whole movement of latter nineteenth century liberalism in America ..." ¹ From the literary point of view, the book represents a notable link in the chain of utopias created by such writers as Plato and More, and has become a permanent classic of American literature. Writing with sincerity and consummate skill, Bellamy achieved "one of the great modern syntheses of humane values."²

Edward Bellamy's family moved into Number 91 Church Street in 1852, when he was still an infant. Except for various periods of absence, the house remained his home until his death in 1898.³ Although it has been somewhat altered and enlarged, the structure retains its essential character. It stands as a memorial to one of nineteenth century America's most influential writers.

Biography

Edward Bellamy was born in 1850 in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts. He received most of his education in the local schools, although for a short time he studied literature at Union College. At eighteen he traveled to Europe, where his observation of squalor aroused his interest in social problems. Upon his return he became a lawyer and later a journalist, but was at heart more interested in literature. He produced short stories, and began publishing a serialized historical novel, The Duke of Stockbridge, in 1879. He received critical acclaim in 1880 for Dr. Heidenhoff's Process, and four years later published Mrs. Ludington's Sister. These two works reflected Bellamy's interest in psychic phenomena.

1. Spiller, p. 989.
 2. Ibid, p. 991.
 3. Letter dated January 18, 1971, from Edward Bellamy's daughter, Mrs. Marion Earnshaw, to Robert S. Gamble of the National Survey staff.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Allen, ed., Dictionary of American Biography, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929, Vol. II, pp. 163-164.
 Spiller, Robert, et al., Literary History of the United States, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1960, pp. 989-992.
 Wagenknecht, Edward, Cavalcade of the American Novel, New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42	09	21
NE	° ' "	° ' "		72	35	04
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Edmund Preston, Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, History Div, OAHP, National Park Service DATE: June 10, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 801- 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STA	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Hampden	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Edward Bellamy House

with a garage, and raised the sills of the front windows, which had extended to the floor. A photograph taken in 1899 shows that the wing had a porch similar to that of the main section, and that the main section may have had an additional chimney. These features were probably removed during the ownership of the photographer. In 1965, the house was purchased from Mr. Hannifan's widow by Joseph La Vallee, the present owner. Mr. La Vallee has modernized the kitchen, but made no structural alterations.

8. Significance: (1)

In 1886, Bellamy began to speculate systematically how America might secure and equalize the material welfare of her citizens. The resulting theory he embodied in a novel, Looking Backward (1888), whose hero was transported into a future America benignly transformed by the nationalization of property and other social and mechanical innovations. This work was fashioned with great skill and has become a classic of its genre. It achieved an immediate and tremendous popularity. Bellamy Clubs were founded, and "nationalism" took on the proportions of a country-wide political movement. The author himself became actively involved in this effort, and for a few years propounded his views through a weekly, New Nation, which he published in Boston. His health began to fail due to tuberculosis, but he refused to leave his home in Chicopee Falls until he had completed Equality, (1897), a carefully reasoned sequel to Looking Backward. He then made an attempt to arrest his disease by going to Colorado, but as this failed he returned to his native town, where he died in 1898.