

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

1090009018

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Joe Durwin
Organization: Home Historian
Date: May 2024

Town/City: Pittsfield, MA
Place: Downtown area
Address: 611 Fenn street
Historic Name: N/A
Uses: Present: Vacant
Original: Residential & Business
Date of Construction: 1909
Source: Maps; Deeds; City Directories
Style/Form: Conventional/Greek Revival
Architect/Builder: Unknown
Structure:
Wood Frame
Concrete Foundation
Asphalt Shingle Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: N/A

Major Alterations (with dates): N/A

Condition: Poor

Moved: No **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1479

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The structure at 611 Fenn Street was built c.1909 [assessed as date: 1922] as a two-unit house owned by Joseph Ciaburri. It consists of a two-story dwelling with Greek Revival elements, dwelling totaling 10 rooms.

The lower level originally housed a small grocery store on the ground floor, and remains mostly open floor plan today. The original two-level porch was removed in 2019.

It rests on a concrete foundation with full basement. There is no attic.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Joseph Ciaburri arrived in the U.S. from Italy in 1885, and first shows up in Pittsfield listed as a peddler in 1902, living and selling produce on West Street. In 1906 he moves to 609 Fenn Street, and in 1908 he purchases a piece of property between the houses then at 609 and 619 Fenn. In 1910 the address 611 Fenn first appears in city directories, as a grocery store.

Joseph and his wife Theresa move into the upstairs of the grocery with their three daughters and rent out 609 Fenn. The family help operate the shop, as Joseph works a day job at General Electric. A 1911 notice in the Berkshire Eagle says Ciaburri had just opened "a macaroni manufacturing establishment at his home at 611 Fenn street. The work is all done by electricity and the machine operated by a New York man who thoroughly understands the trade."

By 1920, Ciaburri he had shifted more into real estate as a side business, and the lower level of the house is rented. In 1929-1930, the Ciaburri family moves next door to 619-621 Fenn, keeping 611 as a rental property, and still retaining 609 Fenn. The street now known as Capri Terrace is alternately marked Ciaburri Place in early maps (see appendix document.)

Tenants included Antonio Farrino, an employee of the Hub Lunch; Mary Bouchard and her husband Joseph, who worked at G.E., with their adult daughter Adriene who worked at Liggot's store.

In 1940, Joseph conveys the property to his daughter Josephine, who sells it in 1942 to .Joseph Siegel. Tenants during this time include Margaret Gomas and husband Joseph, a laborer at G.E., Joseph Gabriel, proprietor of Fenway Upholstery, and Louis Garzoni, a stone mason, and his wife Theresa.

1946 Robert and Gladys Hunt purchase the property, selling a few months later to Antonio & Encarnacio Alvaro.

Antonio owned a variety store at 579 Fenn. He was instrumental in the construction of the Portuguese American Club in Pittsfield, and served as its president. The Alvaros lived there with their three daughters until 1950, when it was sold to Leopold and Mary Cormier. Leopold was a laborer who worked for Maurice Callahan and Sons.



Antonio Alvaro

Cormier's tenants were Patrick Dechaine, a professional painter and wallpaper hanger, and Alfred Benoit, an employee at G.E.

In 1956 the house was sold to Emma Hansen and her husband Louis, proprietor of Delmoore Studios, a photography business on North Street. Emma [Walz] was born in New York in 1910, marrying Louis in Manhattan in 1929. They had three children, Louis Jr, Alfred, and Anita. Louis was born in Denmark, where he had served in the Danish army before coming to the U.S. in 1926. Emma died five years after they purchased the house, and Louis remarried to Lena Barker.

Two years later, they sell the property for \$6,000, the same price they paid for it, to In September 1975 the house is purchased by Robert L. Presutti. From this point on, 611 Fenn Street is utilized as a single family home.

A veteran of the Korean War, Robert worked much of his life as a civil engineer for various construction companies. After retiring, he became a certified arborist involved with the Pittsfield Tree Watch and Springside Park Conservancy. In 2022, Presutti was honored by the City of Pittsfield for donating over 10,000 hours of volunteer time, the most in the history of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Following his death in 2023, the house was sold by Robert's son Richard to Lige Realty, LLC. It has a current [2023] assessed value of \$91,400.



Robert Presutti

Sources:

Registry of Deeds, Berkshire Middle District: Book 491 page 315; B505p317; B532p163; B555p445; B592p445; B645p443; B822p140; B942p248; B1264p1055

Pittsfield City Directories, 1907- 1960

Berkshire Eagle: 6/10/1922; 6/7/1954; 1/9/1961; 9/20/1996;

Pittsfield Assessors Records: <https://pittsfieldma.mapgeo.io/>

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Pittsfield, 1905, 1936

U.S. Federal Census Records, 1910-1950. Accessed via: [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)



EXTERIOR



INTERIOR

