

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

C6/ 1/ 19/ /	Blue Hills		AVO.86 AVO.87
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Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Address: 127 West High Street

Historic Name: George W. and Ellen Porter House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1866

Source: Marriage date; Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival / Italianate

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Carriage house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

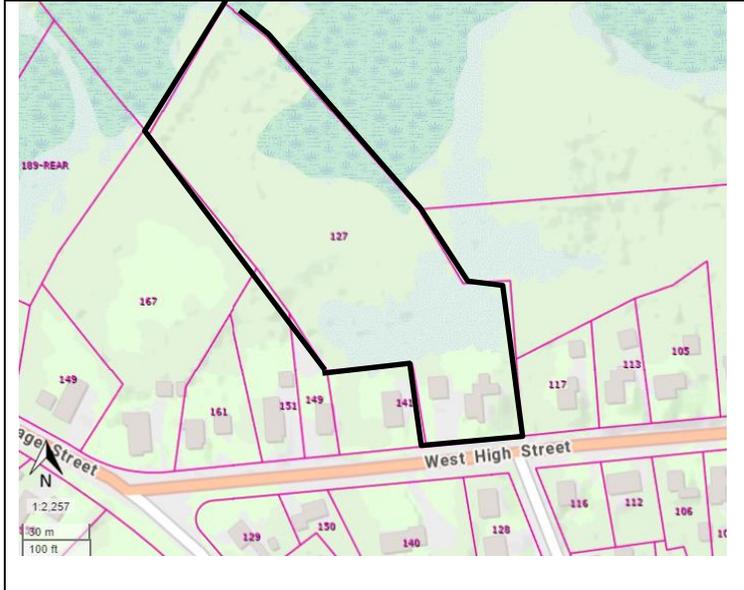
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 3.33 acres

Setting: Located on a suburban street amid houses constructed from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

127 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	AVO.86
	AVO.87

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.

The house is located at the south end of the lot and oriented to the south, facing the street. The lot is covered with lawn near the house; the remainder of the large lot is wooded. An asphalt-paved driveway is located immediately west of the house and ends at the carriage house located northwest of the house.

The 1½-story frame house rests on a cut stone foundation and is capped with a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. A parged brick interior chimney is located on the west roof slope. A 1-story perpendicular ell is attached to the northeast corner of the main block. A parged brick chimney with a corbeled cap is centered on the ell's roof ridge. The house is covered with wood clapboards and trimmed with gable-end cornice returns, corner pilasters, and a wide frieze. The main block contains a bay window and a small porch, both of which have bracketed eaves. The hipped-roof porch is supported by turned wood columns with decorative wood corner brackets. The wood balustrade and porch floor appear to be late 20th-century replacements, as does the Craftsman-style door. A pair of sash windows are located in the gable peak. The side elevations are three bays deep. The ell is four bays wide and one bay deep with a window centered in the gable peak. A cut stone step leads to the ell's off-center entrance. A large light surrounded by small square lights fills the top half of the ell's paneled wood door. Large decorative wood brackets support the shed-roof shelter over the entrance. Aside from the bay window, windows throughout the house have reeded surrounds with bullseye corner blocks. Windows throughout are vinyl sash replacements.

The 2-story, Carriage House (ca. 1866, AVO.87), rests on a banked foundation. A small, cut stone ramp leads from the parking area to the entrance centered on the façade (south elevation). The vertical board-and-batten sliding door is capped by a bracketed projecting crown. Sash windows with wood crowns flank the door. A round-arch window is centered in the gable peak. The east elevation contains a single rectangular window opening at the first level and two window openings at the loft level. The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. The carriage house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a frieze. The façade windows are vinyl sash replacements.

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.

127 West High Street was likely constructed circa 1866 for George W. Porter around the time of his marriage to Ellen E. Tucker in 1866. Ellen E. Tucker Porter (ca. 1846-1928) was the daughter of prominent Stoughton shoe manufacturer William H. Tucker. A native of Stoughton, George W. Porter (1843-1914) worked in a local boot and shoe factory for twenty years as a cutter before making a living as a musician. "A natural and trained musician," Porter was "manager and directory of the well-known Porter's orchestra" beginning in the 1870s. "This orchestra was organized by his oldest brother, Ahira S. Porter..., and [was] one of the best musical organizations of its kind in this part of the State." Beginning around 1888, George W. Porter "devoted practically all his time to the interests of the orchestra." He was also a member of the Stoughton Musical Society.¹ George W. Porter served as Avon Selectman and as the Representative to the Seventh Norfolk District. The Porter family sold the house in 1936.²

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Biographical Review Publishing Company. *Biographical Review – Vol. XXV – Containing life sketches of leading citizens of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. Boston, Mass.: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1898.

¹ Biographical Review: 220.

² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2113, p. 44.

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AVON

127 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Hanna, William F. *The Story of Avon*. Avon: Avon Centennial Committee, 1988.

Hazard, Blanche. *Organization of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Massachusetts Before 1875*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1921.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Norfolk County*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1884.

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Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. New York: E. Robinson, Publisher, 1888.

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Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Norfolk County, Mass.* Boston: Smith & Bumstead, 1858.



View looking northeast.



View looking northwest.



View looking north.