

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D5/ 6/ 28/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.46

Town/City: Avon

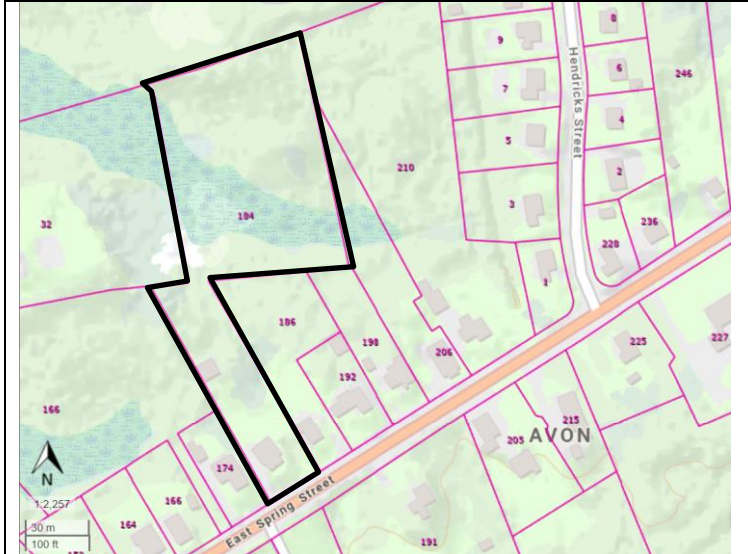
Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking northwest.

Locus Map



Address: 184 East Spring Street

Historic Name: Varanus and Flora Snell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1891

Source: Marriage Date; Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed (20th C)

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

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.1 acres

Setting: Located on a suburban residential street. Surrounding houses are of similar size, age, materials, and condition.

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

184 EAST SPRING ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.

The frame house is located close to the street and oriented to the south, toward the street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the house's west elevation. The lot is covered with lawn near the house; the remainder of the lot is wooded. The 1½-story house is capped with a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. The house is covered with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a frieze. Projecting 1½-story cross-gables are centered on the east and west (side elevations). Each projection is two bays wide. A shed dormer is located at the north end of the east elevation. The façade contains a paneled wood Colonial Revival-style door with half-height sidelights on the west edge of the door. A small, gable-roof porch supported by square-section wood posts and a brick base shelters the entrance. A box bay window containing three slender sash windows on the façade and one slender sash window on each side elevation is located beside the entrance. With the exception of a square multi-light window located in the gable peak, windows are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with wide, flat surrounds. An enclosed porch is located at the northwest corner of the house.

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.

184 East Spring Street was likely constructed circa 1891, the year in which house carpenter Varanus Snell married Flora Smith. Varanus (1866-1946) (also, Veranus) and Flora (1871- 1948) Snell lived here with their three children, as well as with Varanus' parents, Elbridge and Susan Snell. Flora Snell worked as a stitcher in a shoe factory. Varanus and Flora's children also lived here as adults, with their spouses joining them as they married. At the time of the 1930 census, their son Ralph, a grocery store salesman, daughter Emma, and Emma's husband Elmer Keyes, a salesman for the electrical company, also lived here. The property remained in the Snell-Keyes family until 1970.¹

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

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

Massachusetts Vital Records.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

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

Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

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

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4697, p. 730.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPH



View looking northeast.