

# FORM B – BUILDING

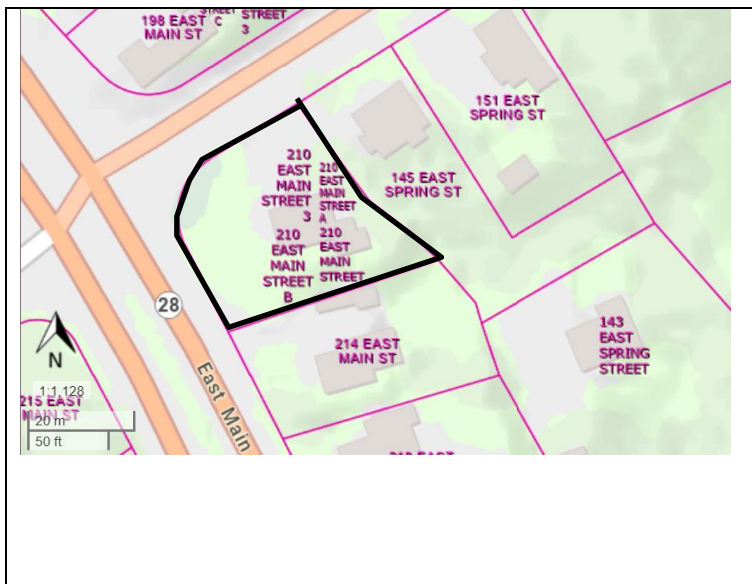
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



View looking east from corner of East Spring Street and East Main Street.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

**Date (month / year):** December 2022

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

D5/ 5/ 11/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.35

**Town/City:** Avon

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 210 East Main Street

**Historic Name:** George K. and Eliza Edwards House

**Uses:** Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1889

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Victorian Eclectic

**Architect/Builder:** George K. Edwards and George A. Edwards, likely

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): 2-story addition at east elevation (before 1916 per Sanborn); Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20<sup>th</sup> C or early 21<sup>st</sup> C)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.28

**Setting:** Located at a busy intersection along the four-lane, divided Route 28. Surrounding buildings are 2-story frame dwellings constructed during the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Harrison Boulevard connector to Highway 24 is located immediately southwest of the house.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

210 EAST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.35

☐ 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.*

Located on a level lot covered with lawn, the house is oriented to the north toward East Spring Street. An asphalt-paved parking area fills the area between the façade and East Spring Street. Mature trees line the south and east lot lines.

The 1½-story frame house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises to a complex hip-on-gable roof featuring shed dormers and a large cross-gable. The hipped roof, with its ridge oriented north-south, is cut away at the north and south elevations; the roof slope extends as a shed roof sheltering projecting box bay windows centered on these elevations. A small shed dormer containing three small lights is located on the north and south slopes of the hipped roof. An interior brick chimney rises from the east slope of the hipped roof. The building is covered with wood shingles and features imbrication at the dormers and half-story. A stringcourse located between the first and half-stories is topped with a kicked shingle course. A porch supported by turned wood posts and paired Doric wood columns atop shingled piers extends the width of the façade. The façade's first story, sheltered by the porch, has been altered with the addition of two metal doors with oval lights and the removal of windows. At the façade's half-story, a projecting box bay with overhanging eaves rests atop the porch. The box bay is two bays wide and one bay deep. The south elevation has a similar arrangement, with a 2-story, 2-bay-wide projection instead of a porch. Decorative bargeboards adorn the bays' overhanging eaves.

The west (East Main Street) elevation is highly-decorative. A shallow bow window containing two single and one pair of windows, fills the first story. Large shingled brackets support overhanging eaves. At the half-story, a large cross gable containing three sash windows is filled with carved wood panels featuring sunburst, coffered, and geometric applications. Dog-eared and fish-scale shingles fill the cross gable. A 1- and 2-story ell is attached to the east elevation.

The building's eclectic design is unusual for Avon. While there are high-style buildings that were constructed during the 1860s-1880s along East and West High Street, there are few high-style dwellings in Avon constructed at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Constructed by a builder for his own use, the building's exuberant design may have served to advertise his services.

## 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.*

210 East Main Street was likely constructed circa 1889 by house carpenter George K. Edwards (1836-1920)<sup>1</sup> and his son George A. Edwards (1857-1916).<sup>2</sup> It appears that the Edwards family constructed several houses on speculation near the intersection of East Main Street and East Spring Street 1890-1900, based on the buildings' shared design features such as the bowed elevation at the first story. A Civil War veteran, George K. Edwards (who later worked as a grocer) and his wife, Eliza A. Edwards, purchased property here and subdivided it.<sup>3</sup> The 1891 city directory indicates that George K. and Eliza A. Edwards lived at 210 East Main Street at that time, while George A. Edwards and his wife, Lizzie M. Pierce Edwards (1862-1935),<sup>4</sup> lived at the intersection of East Main Street and West Spring Street. The Edwards family sold 210 East Main Street in 1910.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #162605975. Accessed Oct. 14, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #162605812. Accessed Oct. 14, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 618, p. 101.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #162606090. Accessed Oct. 14, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1136, p. 422.



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William and Catherine Murphy owned the house 1914-1960 and raised their family here.<sup>6</sup> William J. Murphy worked in a shoe factory and as a grocery store proprietor. In 1941, Charles Murphy and his wife, Clara, purchased the house from his father, William J. Murphy.<sup>7</sup> Census records indicate that Charles Murphy worked as a cutter in a shoe factory and as a fish handler.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

Massachusetts Vital Records.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

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

Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas. 1916.

Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.



View looking south from East Spring Street.



View looking northeast at west elevation.



View looking north-northeast from East Main Street.



Detail, west elevation.

<sup>6</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1289, p. 222 and Book 3394, p. 488.

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2345, p. 309.