

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D6/ 3/ 7/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.92

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking northwest.

Address: 229 West Main Street

Historic Name: Horatio and Mary Blanchard House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1864

Source: Marriage date; Visual assessment

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Attached carriage house

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

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.0 acre

Setting: Located in a suburban setting among residential and commercial buildings. Houses to the north and northeast are of similar age and size. A mid-20th C, 2-story commercial/retail building is located across the street.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

229 WEST MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

Located on a level lot, the house is oriented to the southeast, toward the street. A small ell connects the house to an attached carriage house located west of the house. The lot is covered with, with mature trees at the edges of the lot. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from the street to the carriage house.

The house rests on a brick foundation and rises 1½ stories to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. A low shed dormer on the southwest roof slope contains two sash windows. The house is covered with wood shingles and trimmed with chamfered cornerboards, a bracketed frieze, and compound, gable-end cornice returns. The façade contains a side-hall plan entrance with double-leaf paneled wood doors. A large Queen Anne-style light is located in the top half of each door. The entrance features an Italianate shelter supported by large, decorative wood brackets with pendant details. A large box bay window, 3 bays wide and one bay deep, fills the remainder of the façade. A trio of tall, slender sash windows is centered in the gable peak. A continuous projecting molded crown supported by squat corbels extends the width of the three windows. The northeast (side) elevation is three bays wide. The southwest elevation contains a box bay window similar to that on the façade and a small clerestory window with lozenge-shaped lights that illuminates the house's stairwell inside. A small, 1-story perpendicular ell on a brick foundation is attached to the west corner of the house and connects to the northeast carriage house wall. The ell is two bays wide with a gable roof. Windows throughout the house and ell appear to be metal or vinyl-clad metal sash and casements.

The carriage house rises to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The building is covered with wood shingles on the southeast elevation and wood clapboards on the southwest (side) elevation. The building is trimmed with cornerboards, a frieze, and gable-end cornice returns. The banked southeast elevation contains a vertical-board wood door at center. A vertical-board hayloft door is centered in the upper story. The gable peak contains a semicircular window with a molded surround. The southwest elevation contains two 6/6 wood sash windows. A Colonial Revival cupola with a pyramidal metal roof and windvane is located atop the roof ridge.

The house is an interesting example of Victorian design details applied to the conservative, front-gabled, 1½-story frame dwellings common to the area during the mid-19th century.

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.

229 West Main Street was likely constructed circa 1864, the year in which Horatio Blanchard and his second wife, Mary Thayer, were married. Bootmaker and farmer Horatio Blanchard (1800-1883)¹ married his first wife, Eunice Capen Blanchard (1800-1860),² in 1820. Deeds indicate that Horatio Blanchard purchased 22 acres of land, a house, and a wheelwright shop in this general location in the 1830s.³ Horatio Blanchard also owned a store with his brother Isaac G. Blanchard and Samuel Tolman (see 223 West Main Street, AVO.91).⁴ Based on its appearance and stylistic details, the existing house at 229 West Main Street appears to have been constructed a few decades after these 1830s deeds.

¹ Findagrave.com Memorial #69438966. Accessed Oct. 11, 2022.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #69438921. Accessed Oct. 11, 2022.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 100, p. 237, Book 111, p. 347, Book 114, p. 428.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 108, p. 461.

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In 1884, Horatio Blanchard's older sons, Jonathan, Frederick, and Junius, sold the house to their younger brother, Walter Blanchard and his wife, Adrianna Snell Blanchard, "for one dollar and considerations."⁵ Walter (1845-1903) and Adrianna Blanchard (1845-1918)⁶ were married in 1870. Walter Blanchard worked in a boot factory, and later worked for the railroad as a freight auditor.⁷ William W. Littlefield and his wife, Emma, owned the house from 1903 until 1953.⁸ Littlefield worked as a bookkeeper for a grain and coal business.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Sherman, G.A. *Atlas of Norfolk County*. New York: Comstock & Cline. 1876.

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



View looking west.



View looking northwest.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 565, p. 366.

⁶ Death Certificate (Family Search) Brockton, Vol. 8, p. 413.

⁷ Massachusetts Death Records. Ancestry.com.

⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2470, p. 356.

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View looking north.