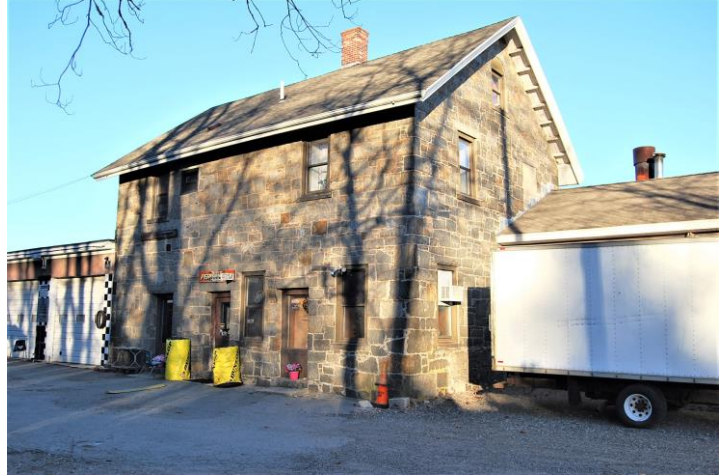


FORM B – BUILDING

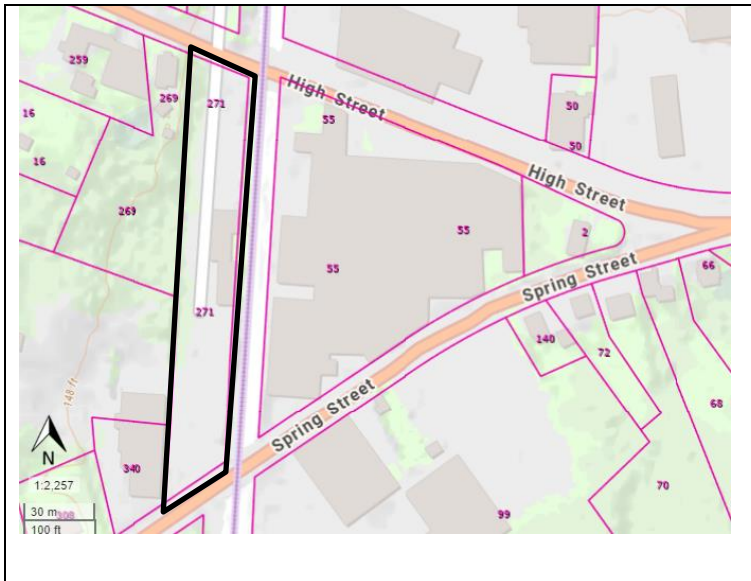
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (month / year): December 2022

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

E6/ 4/ 1/ 1

Blue Hills

AVO.25

Town/City: Avon

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 271 East High Street

Historic Name: Old Colony Railroad -- Avon Station

Uses: Present: Motorcycle Repair Shop

Original: Rail Station

Date of Construction: ca. 1889

Source: Cook

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Stone, Cut / Wood Trim; Stone Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (with dates): Trackage shelter removed (before 1954); North ell added (between 1954 and 1958); South ell added (after 1958); Replacement metal sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.1

Setting: The extensive Avon Sole Company buildings, presently being demolished, are located immediately across the rail line from the former station. Industrial buildings are also located northeast and southeast of the building. A residential area is located along East High Street west of the station.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

271 EAST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.25

☐ 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 building is located on the west side of the active MBTA line on a narrow lot bounded by East Spring Street and East High Street. The lot is paved with gravel and asphalt. Vegetation lines the west lot line.

The 2-story, coursed ashlar building is sited parallel with the rail line and is capped with a gable roof with deep eaves and exposed rafters. A brick chimney with a corbeled cap is centered on the roof ridge. The west elevation contains three doors and two rectangular windows at the first story. The center doorway remains operational; the other two have been infilled with panels containing window-sized single lights. The second story contains two rectangular windows and a smaller, square sash window. The north and south gable-end elevations are two-over-three bays deep with a round-arch window opening in the gable peaks. The door and window lintels, sills, and thresholds are constructed of cut stone. Windows throughout the building are 1/1 metal sash. Set into the stonework are square nailing blocks onto which the shelter was originally attached. A 1-story, shed-roof ell attached to the north elevation is constructed of concrete block. The ell contains two garage bays with overhead metal doors in the west elevation. A gable-roof concrete block ell attached to the south elevation contains a single garage bay with an overhead metal door in the south elevation.

The station building's stone construction appears to be uncommon among Old Colony Railroad Stations. More research is recommended.

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.

The railroad station building was constructed circa 1889. In 1888, when Avon separated from Stoughton to become its own municipality, this location along the Old Colony Railroad was still part of the town of Holbrook. The new Avon town government believed it essential to have access to a rail line in order to promote business. On April 16, 1889, Avon successfully petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to annex a small portion of Holbrook – the portion that contained the existing railroad station. The existing station was constructed that same year, replacing an earlier station building on the site.¹ The Old Colony Railroad was absorbed into the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company in 1915. The railroad sold the property in 1952 and service was discontinued.² The building was owned by Avon Coal & Oil from 1960 until 1985.³ The property is currently occupied by Cycle Performance Auto Body, a motorcycle repair shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Avon Sole Company. Aerial photograph. August 1954. Collection of Robbins House Museum, Avon, Massachusetts.

Avon Sole Company. Aerial photograph. August 1958. Collection of Robbins House Museum, Avon, Massachusetts.

"Railroad Station, Avon Massachusetts." Postcard. Approximate date: ca. 1950-1954.

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Cook, Louis A. *History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts, 1622-1918*. Vol. 1. New York, N.Y.: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918.

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¹ Cook: 57.

² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 3121, p. 83.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 3893, p. 317, Book 3893, p. 319, and Book 6673, p. 26.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

271 EAST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.25

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



View looking south.



Detail. Stonework and wood nailers where shelter was attached.



Ca. 1950-1954. Postcard view, looking northwest. Note the shelter that encircled the building.
<http://www.nashuacitystation.org/station/massachusetts/norfolk/holbrook/avon/>.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

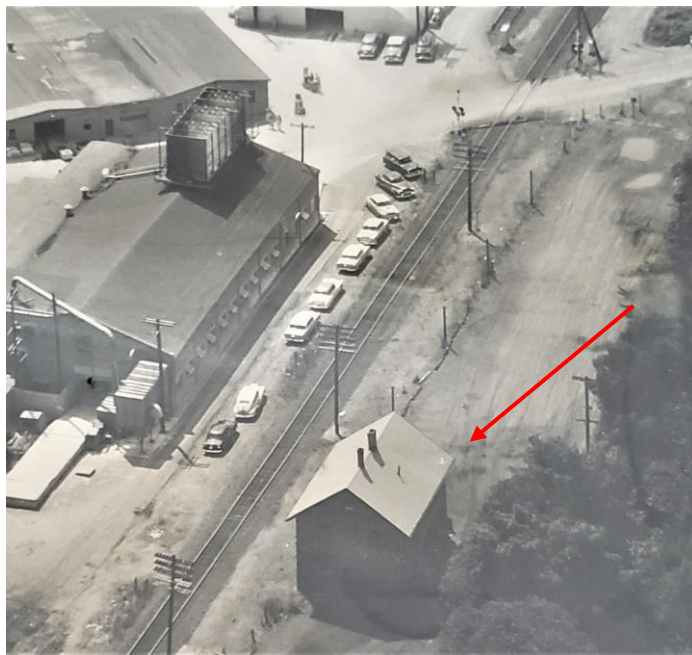
271 EAST HIGH STREET

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Detail of station, Avon Sole Company photograph, August 1954. View looking southeast. East Spring Street visible at top of photograph. Collection of Avon Historical Commission.