

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking west from East Main Street.

Address: 307 East Main Street

Historic Name: Charles and Ann Littlefield House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1839

Source: Deed

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not Visible

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding / Vinyl Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Multiple additions (unknown date); Vinyl siding and replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

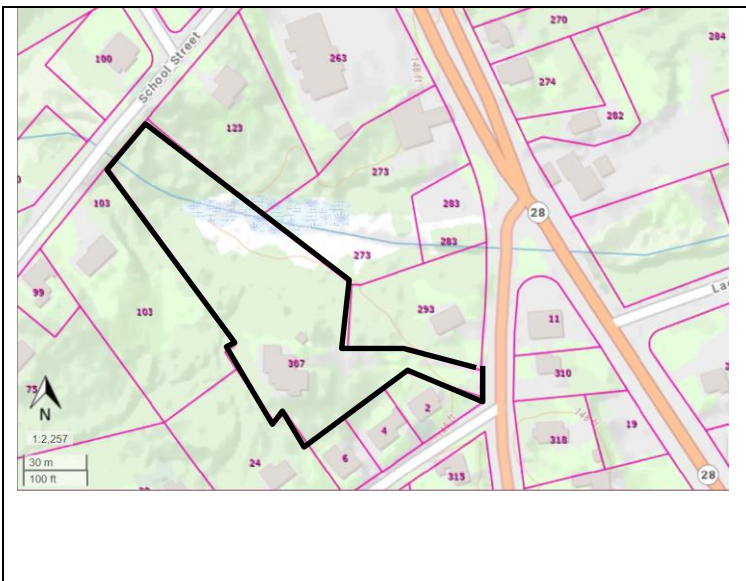
Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.12

Setting: Located on a suburban residential side street. Surrounding houses were constructed mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. A mid-20th C residential development of 1- and 2-story frame houses forms the property's southern border.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

307 EAST MAIN 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.

Located atop a sloping site that slopes down toward East Main Street, the house is presently oriented to the southeast. A long, asphalt-paved driveway leads from East Main Street to the house's east elevation. The lot is covered with lawn; mature trees fill the rear (northwest) portion of the lot. The 2-story frame house rises to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The building has two parged brick interior chimneys; one chimney is located at the west end of the south roof slope and the other is located at the east end of the north roof slope. The façade is three irregular bays wide with a side-hall plan entrance. A single sash window is located in the gable peak. A shed-roof porch with a wide frieze supported by fluted Doric columns (material undetermined) extends the width of the façade at the first story. The porch floor appears to be constructed of concrete or parged masonry. A 2-story, shed-roof addition is attached to the building's southwest elevation. A telescoping, 1-story ell extends from the northeast elevation. Centered on the ell's southeast elevation (façade) is a four-part window consisting of large casement or slider windows beneath a segmental-arch fixed-light window. A 1-bay ell is located at the northeast corner of the larger ell. Windows throughout the building are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements. The building's original appearance has been obscured through the application of vinyl siding and the removal of windows.

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.

307 East Main Street was likely constructed circa 1839, the year in which brothers Charles and Cassander Littlefield split a 34-acre parcel of land that had been part of their father's estate.¹ Charles Littlefield (1793-1864) and his wife, Ann Howard Littlefield (1796-1868), were married in 1821 and had seven children. The 1850 census noted that Charles Littlefield worked as a farmer who owned 110 acres of land. (Charles Littlefield's occupation in census records alternates between "farmer" and "boot manufacturer.") The 1858 map depicts the house of "C. Littlefield" here with a nearby "Boot Mfy. [Manufactory]." In 1869, Charles and Ann Littlefield's estates sold the "homestead" property to their son, Samuel Littlefield, a boot manufacturer.² The 1876 and 1888 maps identify the house as that of Samuel Littlefield (1822-1889) and depict a "Boot Shop" nearby.

Isaac Beals purchased the house in 1892.³ The house was likely used for rental income, as census records indicate that Isaac Beals lived on West Main Street at the time. The Beals family owned the house until 1921.⁴ Lester H. Gaffney and his wife, Agnes, owned the house 1935-1992.⁵ In the 1940s, Lester H. Gaffney worked as the manager of Club Avon.⁶ Later, Lester Gaffney worked as a self-employed interior decorator and carpenter and retired at age 78.⁷

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 152, p. 534.

² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 374, p. 625.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 677, p. 507.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1501, p. 177.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2070, p. 282 and 9532, p. 64.

⁶ 1947 City Directory.

⁷ "Lester Gaffney, 79, Interior Decorator in Avon," *The Boston Globe*, 11 June 1989: 55.

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AVON

307 EAST MAIN ST

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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.

Hodges, Joseph. *Plan of the Town of Stoughton*. 1830. Massachusetts State Archives.

"Lester Gaffney, 79, Interior Decorator in Avon," *The Boston Globe*, 11 June 1989: 55.

Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Probate Records. Ancestry.com.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

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

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

Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

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



View looking northwest from Glendower Street.