

# FORM B – BUILDING

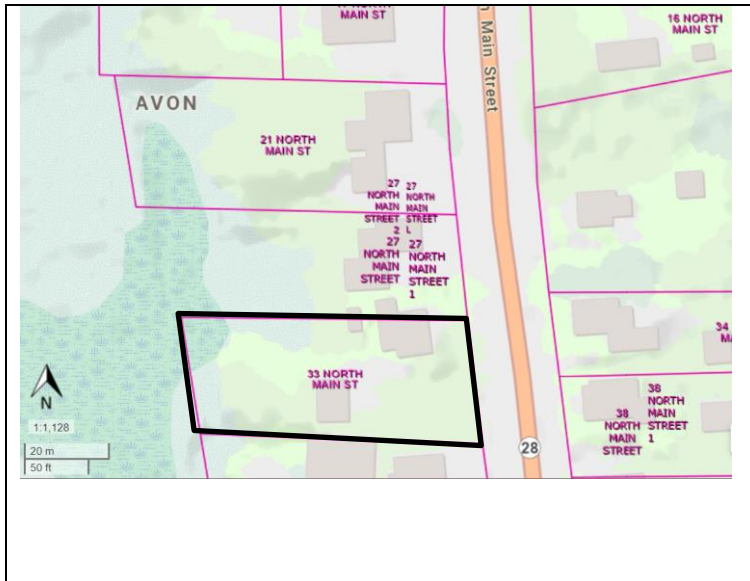
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



View looking northwest.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

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

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

D7/ 2/ 2/ 1

Blue Hills

AVO.49

**Town/City:** Avon

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

**Address:** 33 North Main Street

**Historic Name:** Ahira and Rachel Porter House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1845

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Aluminum Siding / Aluminum Trim, Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (Mid-20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Aluminum siding (mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> C); Entrance possibly relocated from north bay to porch (20<sup>th</sup> C); Porch enclosed (20<sup>th</sup> C); Dormers added (mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> C).

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.46

**Setting:** Located in a suburban setting on a busy north-south State Route 28. Surrounding residences are of similar age and size. A strip shopping center is located a short distance to the north. De Marco Park is located southeast of the house.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

33 NORTH MAIN ST

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.49

☐ 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 gently-sloping site covered with lawn, the house is oriented to the east toward the street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the south elevation toward a 2-story frame garage located southwest of the house. A concrete block retaining wall separates the yard from the driveway. Mature trees fill the west end of the lot.

The front-gabled house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises one story to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. A pair of slender brick chimneys are located at the center of the roof ridge. The façade is four bays wide and four bays deep. (The blank north bay may have been the original entrance location.) Two sash windows are located in the gable peak. An enclosed, shed-roof porch is located along the south elevation. One bay deep and four bays wide, the porch contains two entrances. The east elevation (façade) entrance consists of a metal door framed by half-height sidelights. A second entrance on the south elevation contains a similar metal door with a light in the top half and faux muntins. A small ell, which appears to have been constructed at the same time as the main block, extends from the west end of the north elevation. One bay wide and one bay deep, the ell has a gable roof with gable-end cornice returns. A paneled wood door with a light in the top half and sheltered by a mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century metal storm door is located on the ell's east elevation. A square, fixed window is centered in the ell's north elevation. A slender brick chimney rises from the ell's rear (west) roof slope. Windows throughout the building are 6/6 wood sash with slender muntins. The narrow window surrounds appear to be clad with aluminum trim. Shed dormers on the north and south roof slopes area appear to be late 20<sup>th</sup>-century additions. Covered with vinyl siding, the dormers have vinyl sash 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.*

33 North Main Street was likely constructed circa 1845 for Ahira Porter (1801-1863) and his wife, Rachel Swan Porter (ca. 1795-1861), soon after Ahira Porter purchased land here.<sup>1</sup> Porter worked as a "counter maker" in a boot factory.<sup>2</sup> The couple had five sons and a daughter. Ahira Porter married a second time in 1862 to Catherine Standish (ca. 1821- ).

Widow Sarah Iveson purchased the house in 1865 from widow Catherine Standish Porter.<sup>3</sup> and lived here with her adult children. Sarah Iveson (1806-1880)<sup>4</sup> and her husband, Batty Iveson (1812-1845),<sup>5</sup> were both born in England. Batty Iveson died at age 33 of consumption, leaving Sarah Iveson with five young children under the age of 11. It is unclear when the family arrived in Stoughton, but Sarah Iveson and the children were residents of Stoughton by the time of the 1855 Massachusetts census. After Sarah Iveson's death, the property passed to daughter Fannie Iveson, and then, to daughter, Sarah Iveson, Jr. (ca. 1842-1910).<sup>6</sup> Neither daughter married. After Sarah Iveson, Jr.'s death, it was inherited by her niece, Jennie F. Palmer, who owned the house until 1947.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 154, p. 119 [237] and Book 193, p. 79 [157].

<sup>2</sup> Death records, 1863.

<sup>3</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 334, p. 511.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #86335032. Accessed Sept. 23, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #86335004. Accessed Sept. 23, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 522, p. 421 and Book 856, p. 619.

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2680, p. 244.

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View looking southwest.