

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/ 2/ 15/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.75

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking southwest.

Address: 34 West High Street

Historic Name: Ebenezer and Mary Tucker House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1850-1853

Source: Deeds; Census

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding / Vinyl Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (ca. 1920s)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Possibly raised by a story and overhanging eaves added (3rd Q 19th C); Replacement doors and vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

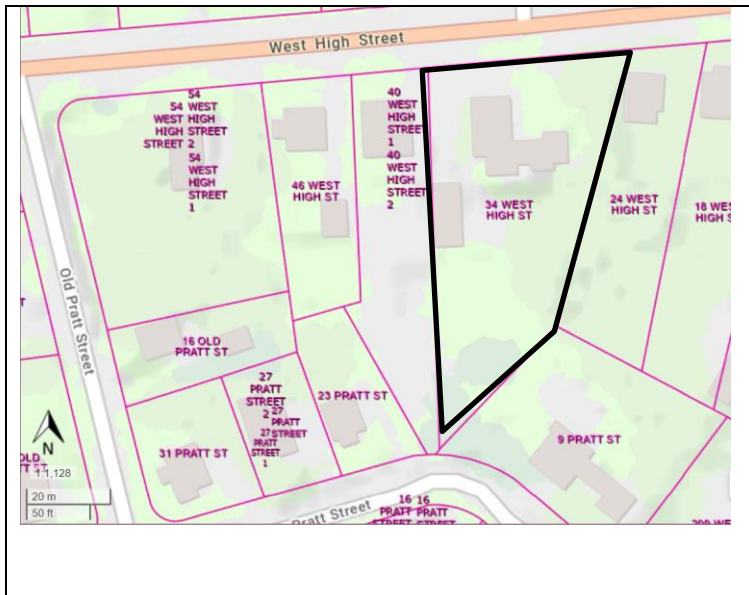
Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.6 acre

Setting: Located on a suburban residential street amid houses of similar age, size, setback and materials. Avon Baptist Church (1840) 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

34 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.75

☐ 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 house is oriented to the north, toward the street. The lot slopes gently down from the foundation to the north end of the lot. A low retaining wall constructed of dry-laid cut stone lines the lot at the sidewalk. An asphalt-paved, elliptical drive fills the front yard. A second asphalt-paved driveway leads from the street past the west elevation to a two-car frame garage with jerkinhead roof.

The house consists of a 2-story, side-hall plan main block and a 1-story perpendicular ell attached to the east elevation. The house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. A brick chimney rises from the east roof slope. A shallow, hipped-roof porch extends along the façade and wraps around the east elevation where it terminates at the junction with the ell. The porch is supported by round, fluted columns (composite or vinyl?) that rest on a poured concrete base. Two short runs of poured concrete steps lead from the elliptical drive to the porch. The main block is three bays wide and four bays deep with a pair of small windows in the gable peak. The first story of the façade and east elevation contain full-height 2/2 wood sash windows; the rectangular windows at the second story contain 1/1 wood sash. The ell rests on a stone foundation and is capped with a gable roof with overhanging eaves. The north elevation contains three bays of windows; 2/2 wood sash windows remain in two openings. A 2/2 window also remains in the east elevation of the vestibule located at the south end of the porch. The east end of the ell contains a small porch that shelters a pressed-panel metal door and a sash window. A 1-story projection attached to the ell's east elevation rests on a poured concrete foundation and contains a small bay window. Two gable dormers are located on the ell's north roof slope.

The house appears to have been expanded in the third quarter of the 19th century. The overhanging eaves and full-height, first-story windows hint that the building may have incorporated Italianate style features. The survival of the full-height 2/2 sash windows is noteworthy.

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 house at 34 West High Street was likely constructed circa 1850-1853. High Street, later clarified as East High Street and West High Street, was laid out in the 1840s. The new road connected Page Street with Main Street and the new Fall River Railroad station at Randolph (later, the Avon station). Many of the new houses along West High Street were constructed for family members of the prominent Tucker and Littlefield shoe manufacturing firms, including Ebenezer Tucker (1815-1874).¹

Ebenezer Tucker "came to East Stoughton as a young man and entered the employ of [Adam] B. Goldthwaite as a boot cutter, [and] in due time became a partner of Mr. Goldthwaite, whose sister he married and to whose business he succeeded as a sole proprietor."² Ebenezer Tucker became one of East Stoughton's busiest boot manufacturers.³ Loring Goldthwait, who had also worked for Adam B. Goldthwaite, joined Ebenezer Tucker in this new venture. "They were very successful, and when their factory burned, they replaced it with another on High Street."⁴ Ebenezer Tucker brought his son, William H. Henry Tucker (1840-

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146099244/ebenezer-tucker>. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

² "Ebenezer Tucker," *Stoughton Sentinel*, 17 January 1874, cited in FindaGrave listing.

³ Hurd: 407.

⁴ Hanna: 39.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

34 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.75

1898),⁵ into the business when he was still a teenager and renamed the business "E. Tucker & Son."⁶ The Tucker factory was located at the present-day location of 70 West High Street. (Also see 67 West High Street, AVO.80.)

Ebenezer Tucker married Mary Etta Goldthwaite (1819-1903)⁷ in 1839. In the 1850s, Ebenezer Tucker purchased several acres of land, with buildings, on the south side of West High Street. An 1853 deed pertains to a parcel of land that abutted Ebenezer Tucker's garden, which likely indicates that the house was constructed by that time.⁸ The 1858 map notes that Ebenezer Tucker owned 34 and 46 West High Street at that time. The house remained in the Tucker family until 1930.⁹

Avon carpenter and contractor George H. Wood (1888-1965)¹⁰ purchased the property in 1930.¹¹ George H. Wood (1888-1965)¹² was active in Stoughton, and designed and built the Bows Moccasin Factory at 340 East Spring Street (See AVO.47). The Wood family owned the house until 1967.¹³ George H. Wood also served as chief of the Avon Fire Department. Wood served with the department for 33 years before retiring in 1947.¹⁴

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

"Ebenezer Tucker." *Stoughton Sentinel*, 17 January 1874. GenealogyBank.com.

Findagrave.com.

"George H. Wood, Former Fire Chief." *Patriot Ledger*. 12 April 1965.

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." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Feb. 1913, Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 236-262.

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.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Norfolk County*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1884.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Vital Records.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

Poole, A. F. "Bird's Eye view of East Stoughton, Looking northwest." 1885.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:wd376042j>.

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

Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlases. 1916.

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.

⁵ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146096787/william-henry_h-tucker. Accessed March 3, 2022.

⁶ U.S. Census. 1860.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146099765/mary-etta-tucker>. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 192, p. 238, Book 195, p. 327, Book 216, p. 465, and Book 247, p. 339.

⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1897, p. 622.

¹⁰ Findagrave.com Memorial #70185277. Accessed Oct. 27, 2022.

¹¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2191, p. 375.

¹² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70185277/george-henry-wood>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

¹³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4433, p. 698.

¹⁴ "George H. Wood, Former Fire Chief," *Patriot Ledger*, 12 April 1965.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

34 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|--|--------|
| | AVO.75 |
|--|--------|



View looking southeast.