

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D5/ 1/ 16/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.14

**Town/City:** Avon

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

## Photograph



View looking southwest from Bartlett Street.

**Address:** 37 Bartlett Street

**Historic Name:** John J. and Nellie Collins House

**Uses:** Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Multiple Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1905

**Source:** Marriage Date

**Style/Form:** No Style / Foursquare

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

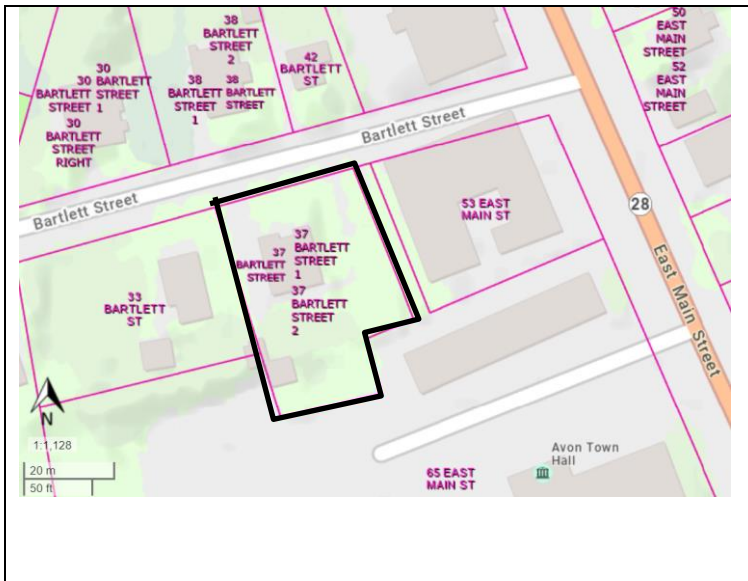
## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Uncut

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Shingles, Vinyl Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

## Locus Map



**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Asbestos Shingles;  
Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20<sup>th</sup> C or early 21<sup>st</sup> C)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.29

**Setting:** Located on a suburban side street. Surrounding houses are of similar size and age. Commercial buildings are located to the east and northeast, along East Main Street.

**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

37 BARTLETT STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.14

☐ 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 covered with lawn, this two-story frame dwelling rests on an uncoursed stone foundation. The steeply-pitched roof has overhanging eaves above a wide wood frieze and contains a hip dormer centered on each slope. The building is three bays wide. A pedimented wood porch with a compound wood molding is supported by tapered wood posts. A flight of stone-veneer concrete steps leads from the brick-paved front walk to the porch. The paneled wood door is framed by five-light, half-height sidelights. Windows throughout the building are vinyl replacement sash with narrow molded wood surrounds. A 2-story bow window is centered on the east elevation; a single bay of rectangular windows is located at the north end of the elevation. The west elevation is four bays deep. A second, smaller, porch that is similar in design to that on the façade, is located at the south end of the west elevation. A flight of brick-veneer concrete steps leads from the asphalt-paved driveway to the porch.

### 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.*

37 Bartlett Street was constructed for John J. Collins (1865-1941)<sup>1</sup> and his wife, Nellie (1877-1951),<sup>2</sup> who were married in 1905. John J. Collins worked as a blacksmith in his father's (Bartlett Collins') carriage factory next door at 53 East Main Street (AVO.26). John J. Collins continued the business after his father's death in 1907. The 1911 directory lists his business as "blacksmith, wheelwright, and carriage painter." By 1920, the business also included automobile painting.<sup>3</sup> In the 1920s, John J. Collins began work as Avon Town Clerk, a position he held until at least 1940. It appears that John J. Collins closed his shop in the 1930s.

At the time of the 1930 census, John J. and Nellie Collins' son, John B. Collins (1909-1988)<sup>4</sup> was living here with his parents and worked as an accountant for a "motor company." After his marriage to Mary Sullivan (1914-1994)<sup>5</sup> in 1938, the couple made 37 Bartlett Street their residence. In 1940 John B. Collins was working for the Avon Water Department<sup>6</sup> and became superintendent of the department by 1950. John B. and Mary Collins' son, John J. Collins, became Avon Deputy Police Chief. The Collins family sold the property in 1966.<sup>7</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

Hanna, William F. *The Story of Avon*. Avon: Avon Centennial Committee, 1988.

Massachusetts Vital Records.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158696878/john-j-collins>. Accessed March 2, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial # 158696884. Accessed March 2, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census. 1920.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial # 158696877. Accessed March 2, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial # 158696883. Accessed March 2, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> World War II Draft Registration Card. Ancestry.com. Accessed Sept. 12, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4386, p. 154.

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37 BARTLETT STREET

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Massachusetts Probate Records. Ancestry.com.  
Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas. 1916.  
Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.  
United States Census. Ancestry.com.  
World War II Draft Registration Cards. Ancestry.com.



View looking southeast.