

# FORM B – BUILDING

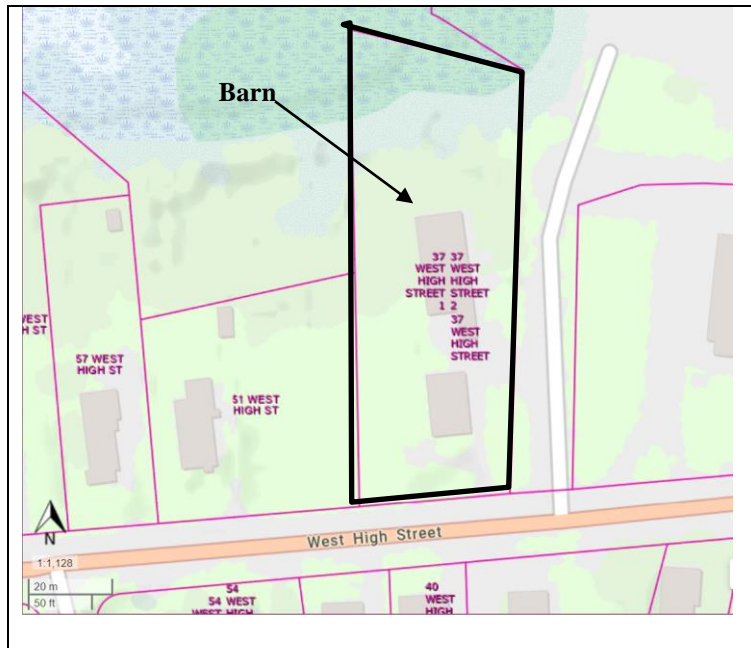
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## 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

C6/ 1/31/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.76

**Town/City:** Avon

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

**Address:** 37 West High Street

**Historic Name:** Clark Dairy Farm Barn

**Uses:** Present: Vacant

Original: Barn

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1922

**Source:** Deed; Census

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Poured Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Multiple-family dwelling (constructed 2005)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Some windows replaced with fixed plastic or glass lights.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.92

**Setting:** Located in a suburban residential setting. Avon Baptist Church (1840) abuts the property to the east. St. Michael's Church (1964) abuts the property to the northeast. Frame houses constructed during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> C and early 20<sup>th</sup> C are located west and south of the property.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

37 WEST HIGH STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.76

☐ 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 ground-level stable barn rests on a poured concrete foundation and is capped with a gambrel roof with overhanging eaves. Two metal ventilators are located on the roof ridge. The south (streetside) elevation contains three levels of centered vertical board-and-batten, side-hung, double-leaf doors. A metal track extends from the gable peak, above the hayloft door. The side (east and west) elevations are seven bays deep. The east elevation contains seven pairs of small 6-light, wood-sash windows. The west elevation contains six pairs of small, 6-light wood sash windows and a wide vertical-board wood door at center. (Some of the windows have been replaced with fixed glass or plastic panes.) A 1-story, gambrel-roof milk house is attached to the east end of the south elevation. A pedestrian door is located in the north end of the west elevation. The south elevation contains two small rectangular window openings and a 6-light window in the gambrel peak. A single small window is located in the east elevation of the milk house.

The building is a good example of a ground-level stable barn, a form that became popular in the 1920s. The building's poured concrete floor, deep gambrel roof, metal roof ventilators, and milk shed are all character-defining features. The building retains a high level of integrity.

### 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.*

In 1922, Daniel H. Clark purchased 48 acres of land on the north side of West High Street and founded Clark's Dairy Farm.<sup>1</sup> The barn was likely constructed around the time of that purchase. An Irish immigrant, Daniel H. Clark (ca. 1872-1927)<sup>2</sup> lived on Pond Street with his extended family; it appears that the West High Street house that was located on site was used to house his employees and/or renters. After Daniel Clark's death in 1927, it appears that the farm was operated by Robie Bennett and James F. Murray, Clark's brother-in-law. (James F. Murray (1882-1962)<sup>3</sup> married Anna Edith Clark (1884-1960)<sup>4</sup> in 1912.) Later, James and Anna Edith Murray's son, James Gerard Murray (1917-2001),<sup>5</sup> took over operation of the farm. J. Gerard Murray sold the property in 1963 to brothers Thomas and Joseph Mennino.<sup>6</sup>

This ground-level stable barn was considered state-of-the-art in the 1920s. This design arose out of a desire to improve sanitation that resulted from the discovery that tuberculosis bacteria could travel through the digestive systems of cows. Without the pharmaceutical remedies available today, tuberculosis was a major health concern (for humans as well as bovines) in the 1920s. This new design allowed the concrete floor to be washed down (unlike the wood floors of earlier barns) and provided increased light and ventilation over earlier designs. "As the name implies, the main floor level in a ground-level stable barn is at grade. With no manure basement, the problems of odor and disease-carrying dust in the air are greatly reduced. A four- or five-inch-thick concrete slab poured over compacted gravel typically serves as the floor for the cow stables. Because concrete is so much easier to clean than wooden floors, sanitary regulations imposed in many areas prohibited the use of wooden floors in dairy stables..."<sup>7</sup> Manure travelled by a trolley run on a track suspended from the ceiling or, later, by an electrically-powered

<sup>1</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1526, p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158696831/daniel-h-clark>. Accessed Dec. 22, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161150789/james-f-murray>. Accessed Dec. 22, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161150779/anna-e-murray>. Accessed Dec. 22, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161150788/james-g-murray>. Accessed Dec. 22, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4056, p. 519.

<sup>7</sup> Visser: 98-99.

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gutter cleaner. The hay loft was located in the space above; the gambrel roof provided more area than that provided by a gable roof.

The house on the property was constructed in 2005, replacing an earlier house in that location. The 2-story building is clad with vinyl siding and capped with an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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United States Census. Ancestry.com.

Visser, Thomas Durant. *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1997.

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View looking northwest.