

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View looking southeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (month / year): December 2022

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

D5/ 2/ 28/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.97

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 384 West Main Street

Historic Name: Patrick and Ann Grace House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1848

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*): Roof raised and rear addition (late 20th C); Vinyl siding; Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C); Chimney removed.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.21

Setting: Suburban residential setting. Surrounding houses are of similar size and setting and range in age from mid-19th through mid-20th century. A large wooded property forms the east boundary.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

384 WEST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.97

☐ 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, the house is oriented to the west and parallel with the street. A low wall of cut stone lines the lot at the sidewalk. A poured concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the house. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the north elevation. The 1-story house is capped with an asymmetrical gable roof with a shallow overhang on the façade and no overhang on the side elevations. Two skylights are located on the east roof slope. The symmetrical, five-bay façade has a center entrance sheltered by a front-gabled vestibule. The house has been substantially altered with a 2-story addition along the rear of the house. Windows throughout the house are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements.

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.

384 West Main Street was constructed circa 1848 according to a deed from that year that identified the property as being "the same piece of land where Patrick Grace has lately built a house thereon."¹ Patrick Grace (1814-1870) and his wife, Ann Gibbins Grace (1814-1883), were both born in Ireland and lived here with their five children. Patrick Grace worked in a boot factory, as did two of his sons. Daughter Bridget worked as a "domestic" at the time of the 1865 census. Son John B. Grace worked as a farm laborer. The Grace home was part of the "Donegal" area of East Stoughton, so named for the numerous Irish immigrants who settled along West Main Street between Pond Street and Harrison Boulevard. Irish immigrants began arriving in large numbers to East Stoughton in the 1840s and 1850s. The Irish immigrants "took jobs as day laborers on farms, and later they worked in large numbers in shoe factories."² The house was owned by the Grace family through the 1890s.

William and Elizabeth Whittemore owned the house from 1897 until 1926³ and lived here with their daughters and son-in-law. William Whittemore and his son-in-law, Merton Soule, both worked at a shoe factory. Daughter Lottie Whittemore Soule worked as a milliner. Reflective of the difficult economic conditions of the Great Depression, the property was sold eight times during the late 1920s and 1930s, including more than one foreclosure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 177, p. 514.

² Hanna: 33.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1711, p. 157.