

# FORM B – BUILDING

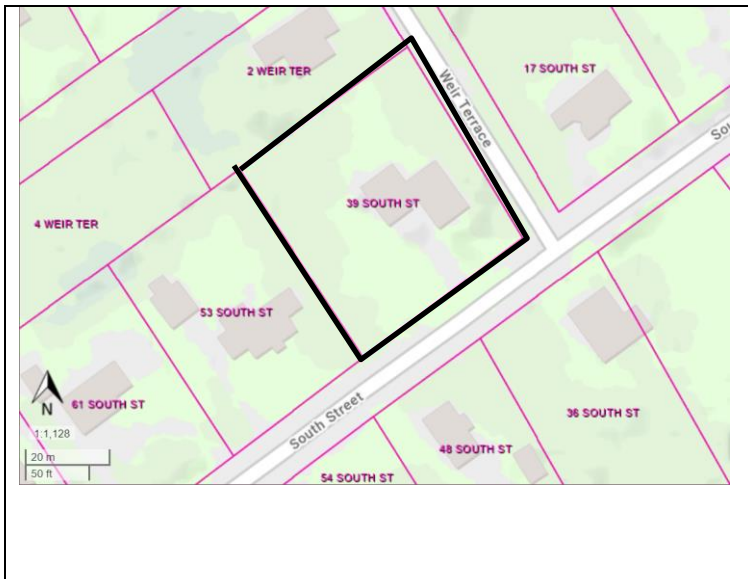
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## 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

D4/ 5/ 3/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.68

**Town/City:** Avon

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

**Address:** 39 South Street

**Historic Name:** Cyrus and Kezia Packer House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1824

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, Cut

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

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations (with dates):** Vinyl Siding; Bay windows; Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20<sup>th</sup> C or early 21<sup>st</sup> C); Carriage house converted to living space.

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.63

**Setting:** Located in a suburban residential neighborhood. Surrounding dwellings range in age from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

39 SOUTH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.68

☐ 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, the house is oriented to the south toward the street. The lot is covered with lawn with mature trees at the edges of the property. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the house's west elevation to an attached converted carriage house. The 1-story frame house rests on a cut stone foundation. The pedimented, front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves. A slender brick chimney with a corbeled cap is centered on the roof ridge. On the façade, an off-center vestibule contains a multi-light wood door; the vestibule's side elevations contain large multi-light windows. A bow window capped with a pent roof, added in the mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century is located beside the vestibule. The gable peak contains a pair of rectangular sash windows. The side elevations are three bays wide; the west elevation contains a door in one of the bays. A concrete block chimney is attached to the house's east elevation.

A 1-story ell attached to the rear of the house connects the house to the former carriage house located immediately northwest of the house. The carriage house has a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. At its first story, the former carriage house contains a bow window similar to that located in the main house. A tripartite window containing a picture window framed by two sash windows is centered in the gable peak. The banked carriage house foundation is constructed of concrete block. A concrete block exterior chimney is located at the west elevation. The house and carriage house are clad with vinyl siding and vinyl trim, with the exception of the carriage house's west elevation, which is clad with wood shingles.

## 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.*

39 South Street was likely constructed circa 1824, the year in which Cyrus Packard purchased 29 acres in this area from John French.<sup>1</sup> Cyrus Packard (1772-1837)<sup>2</sup> married Kezia Kingman in Brockton in 1795. In 1831, Cyrus Packard sold his 11-acre "homestead" property with a dwelling house, barn, and shed to Charles Packard and Thomas Curtis.<sup>3</sup> At that time, Charles Packard was living at 533 West Main Street. (See 533 West Main St., AVO.1.)

In 1840, Charles Packard sold the house to George W. May.<sup>4</sup> George May lived here with his wife, Hannah, and their family. George W. May worked as a cordwainer (shoemaker) and, later, as a "peddler" and a "huckster," according to census records. (Historically, peddlers were persons who traveled to sell items, whereas a huckster sold items from a fixed location, such as a stall.) In 1872, neighbor Benjamin W. Porter purchased the house from George May.<sup>5</sup> Benjamin Porter (1835-1911)<sup>6</sup> worked in a boot factory and lived here with his wife, Abbie (1851-1932),<sup>7</sup> whom he had married in 1870. Benjamin Porter sold the house in 1902.

Swedish immigrants John and Gerda Muerling owned the house from 1907 until 1938.<sup>8</sup> John Meurling worked as a trimmer in a shoe factory.

<sup>1</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 70, p. 463.

<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #130649416. Accessed Oct. 21, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 93, p. 525.

<sup>4</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 128, p. 214.

<sup>5</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 422, p. 42.

<sup>6</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #70057979. Accessed Oct. 21, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #70848584. Accessed Oct. 21, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1064, p. 605 and Book 2203, p. 404.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

39 SOUTH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	AVO.68
--	--------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.  
Findagrave.com.  
Hanna, William F. *The Story of Avon*. Avon: Avon Centennial Committee, 1988.  
Hodges, Joseph. *Plan of the Town of Stoughton*. 1830. Massachusetts State Archives.  
Massachusetts Vital Records.  
Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.  
Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.  
Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. New York: E. Robinson, Publisher, 1888.  
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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking north.