

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D5/ 2/ 30/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.98
AVO.99

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking southeast.

Address: 394-396 West Main Street

Historic Name: Thomas and Onnie Lynch House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1847

Source: Deed

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not Visible

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Second house (ca. 1876)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.57

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.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

394-396 WEST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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☐ 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 west, toward the street. An asphalt-paved parking area and a tall fence separate the house from the roadway. The 1-story frame house is capped with a side-gabled roof. The roof has a shallow overhang on the east and west elevations and no overhang on the side elevations. An interior brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge. The house is covered with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards, a frieze, and gable-end cornice returns. The 5-bay façade has a center entrance framed by a molded surround with corner blocks. Windows are 6/1 wood sash with flat surrounds and backband trim. The side elevations are two bays deep with two windows in the gable peak. Small 1-story ells are attached to the north and south elevations.

A second house (ca. 1876, AVO.99) is located immediately northeast of the main house. The 1½-story frame building has an asymmetrical gable roof with a shallow overhang. A hipped-roof porch is located on the west elevation.

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.

394-396 West Main Street was constructed circa 1847 according to an 1847 deed that identified the property as being “the same piece of land where Thomas Lynch has lately built a house thereon.”¹ By the time of the 1850 census, Thomas Lynch (1820-1898)² and his wife, Onnie (1820-1889),³ lived here with their young son and five other boarders, several of whom worked in the boot and shoe factories along with Thomas Lynch. The Lynch 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 greater 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.”⁴ In 1895, Thomas Lynch sold the house and moved to his daughter’s home in Brockton.⁵

In 1903, four years after the death of her husband, Mary Jane Maloney (1854-1937)⁶ purchased the house.⁷ Mary Jane Maloney worked as a nurse for a family and lived here with seven of her twelve children.⁸ Five of her children worked at a shoe factory. In 1934, Mary Jane Maloney sold the house to her son Charles L. Maloney and his wife, Catherine E. Maloney, and the couple moved in with her.⁹ At the time of the 1940 census, Charles L. Maloney worked as a laborer for the W.P.A. Catherine E. Maloney owned the house until 1988.¹⁰

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 177, p. 69 [137]. The property was sold to Patrick Lynch “in trust for” his brother, Thomas. Patrick Lynch sold the property to Thomas Lynch in 1850, Book 196, p. 186 [370].

² Findagrave.com Memorial #152979754. Accessed Oct. 10, 2022.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152980332/onnies-lynch>. Accessed Jan. 10, 2023.

⁴ Hanna: 33.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 830, p. 75 and Thomas Lynch Obituary, *The Boston Globe*, July 14, 1898, p. 10.

⁶ Findagrave.com Memorial #160365595. Accessed Oct. 20, 2022.

⁷ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 951, p. 5.

⁸ 1910 U.S. Census.

⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2026, p. 193.

¹⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 7857, p. 72.

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



View looking northeast.



View looking east. 396 West Main Street at left rear.



Assessor's photograph of 394 West Main Street.



Assessor's photograph of 396 West Main Street.