

FORM B – BUILDING

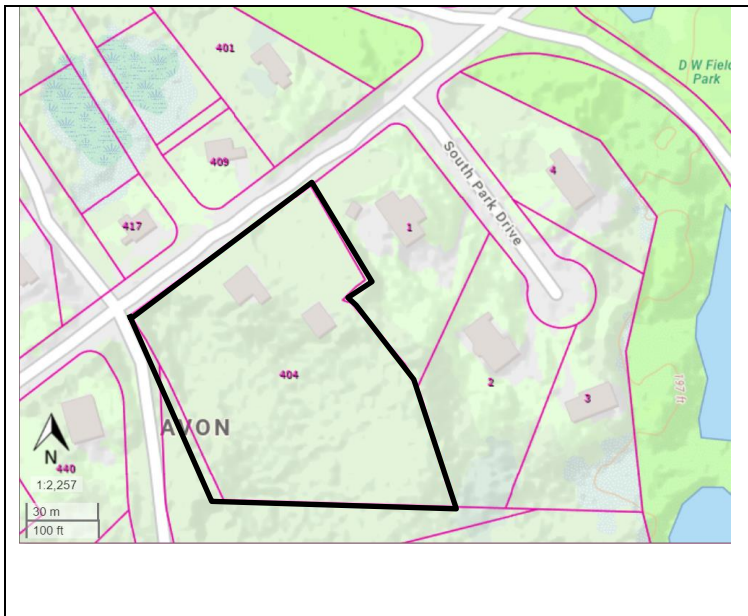
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking southeast toward façade.

Locus Map



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

C2/ 2/ 1/ 1

Blue Hills

AVO.71
AVO.72

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 404 South Street

Historic Name: Abiezer, Jr., Samuel, & Isaac Packard House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1804

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement door and surround (mid-20th C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.52

Setting: Located in a wooded suburban neighborhood. Surrounding houses on large lots are of recent construction (late 20th and early 21st centuries). The heavily wooded D.W. Field Park abuts the property to the southeast.

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

404 SOUTH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 large, wooded lot, the house is oriented to the south toward the street. A fieldstone walkway leads from the street to the house. An earthen driveway leads past the east elevation toward a barn located southeast of the house. A dry-laid, uncoursed fieldstone wall leads from the driveway to the east property line.

The frame house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises two stories to a shallow hipped roof with overhanging eaves and a box cornice. A brick chimney is located at the roof ridge. The house is five bays wide and three bays deep with an entrance centered on each elevation. The house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards, a narrow frieze, and a skirt board. Two cut stone steps lead to the entrance centered on the façade. A 6-panel wood door with a thumb latch is framed by a pilastered Colonial Revival (20th C) surround with half-height sidelights. A 1-story ell extends from the rear of the house. Windows throughout the house are 6/6 wood sash with surrounds constructed of wide, flat boards.

A frame barn (mid-19th C, AVO.72) is capped with a gable roof with overhanging eaves. A cupola, set on a square base and capped with a pyramidal roof, is centered on the roof ridge. Each of the cupola's elevations contains two round-arched openings enclosed with wood louvers. The building is trimmed with gable-end cornice returns, a wide frieze, and cornerboards. The façade (south elevation) is clad with wood clapboards and contains a 6/1 wood sash window in the gable peak and a top-hung sliding wagon door in the west end. The wagon door is sheathed with miter-cut boards. The side elevations are covered with wood shingles.

The house is a good local example of vernacular Federal architecture. Although the entrance has been altered, the building retains its original form, volume, and materials.

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.

404 South Street was likely constructed circa 1804, the year in which brothers Abiezer Packard, Jr., Samuel Packard, and Isaac Packard purchased 35 acres of land here.¹ Their parents, Abiezer Packard, Sr. (1740-1824) and Mary Holbrook Packard (1742-1785), lived across the street on the north side of South Street. (That house is no longer standing.) Based on historic maps and census records, it appears that after the death of Abiezer Packard Sr., Isaac Packard and his wife, Nancy lived in that house on the north side of the street. Isaac Packard (1783-1834)² of Stoughton married Nancy Prentice (or Prentiss) of New Ipswich, NH (1783-1871) in 1807.³ Deeds indicate that Isaac Packard worked as a "trader" and Nancy Packard worked as a seamstress. In 1818, Abiezer Packard, Sr. had sold a 1/3 share of his 62-acre farm to Nancy Packard.⁴

Census records indicate that in the 1850s-1870s, 404 South Street housed three households: 1) Abiezer Packard, Jr.'s son Samuel Packard (1811-1883),⁵ his wife, Mary Johnson Packard (1818-1895),⁶ and their children; 2) Nathaniel P. Packard (Isaac and Nancy Packard's son), his wife, Louisa, and their children; and 3) the widower of Nathaniel's sister Adeline Packard Taylor

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 23, p. 396.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #688115376. Accessed Oct. 25, 2022.

³ Binney, *The History and Genealogy of the Prentice or Prentiss family in New England*: 64.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 55, p. 373.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/244218018/samuel-packard>. Accessed April 24, 2023.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/244218060/mary-packard>. Accessed April 24, 2023.

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(1818-1852),⁷ Thomas Taylor (1818-1898)⁸ and his son Charles A. Taylor. Samuel Packard worked as a farmer and a cordwainer (shoemaker). Nathaniel P. Packard (1825-1899),⁹ Thomas Taylor and Charles Taylor worked as bootmakers. The 1858 map depicts a shoemaker's shop beside the house. Nathaniel P. Packard was also well known as a musician, "being an expert with the violin and flute."¹⁰ After Louisa Packard's (1827-1869) death, Nathaniel P. Packard remarried to Lydia H. Morrison (1833-1928). Lydia Morrison Packard sold the property in 1903.¹¹

Etar Bozoian of Brockton purchased the property in 1913.¹² Born in Armenia, Etar Bozoian moved here with her son, Merger, and his two young sons, Azad (known as Ozzie) and Kacher Merton (known as Merton). Merger Bozoian worked as a laster in a shoe factory in Brockton. Ozzie Merton attended Northeastern University worked as a schoolteacher and became the principal of Middletown and Cromwell High Schools (Connecticut).¹³ The Bozoian family are the current owners of the property.

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⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/60243180/adaline-a-taylor>. Accessed April 25, 2023.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/60243044/thomas-taylor>. Accessed April 25, 2023.

⁹ Findagrave.com Memorial #69446119. Accessed Oct. 25, 2022.

¹⁰ Nathaniel P. Packard Obituary, *The Boston Globe*, 22 Sept. 1899: 2.

¹¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 965, p. 314.

¹² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1252, p. 508.

¹³ A. Merton "Ozzie" Bozoian Obituary, *The Hartford Courant*, 10 June 2000: B4.

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View looking southeast at façade and west elevations.



View looking south toward barn.