

FORM B – BUILDING

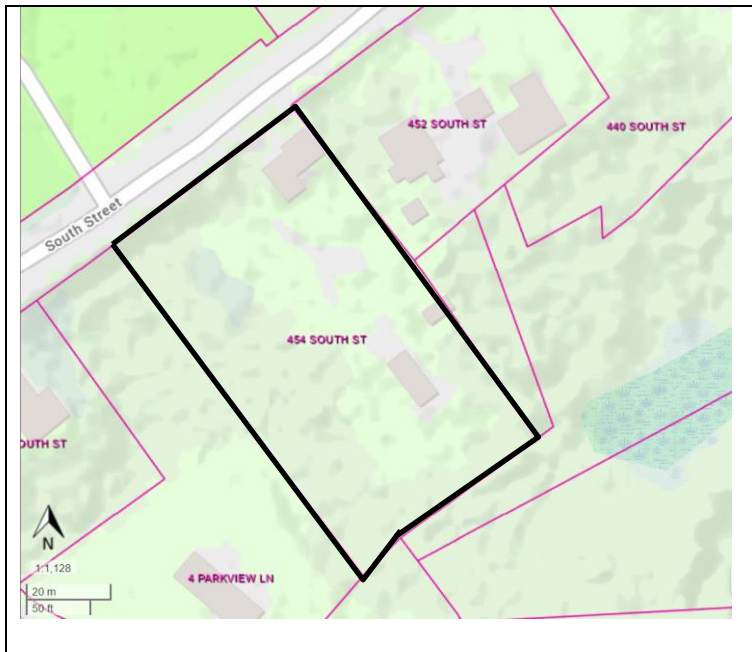
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

B2/ 4/ 3/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.73

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 454 South Street

Historic Name: Dennis and Azelia Bisbee House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1884

Source: Deed

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Parged masonry

Wall/Trim: Wood vertical boards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement siding and windows (20th C).

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.39

Setting: Located in a wooded suburban setting. A 19th C house is located in the adjacent lot to the east. An early 21st C residential development abuts the property to the southwest. Two large water tanks for the Brockton Water Department are located across the street on a wooded lot.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

454 SOUTH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.73

☐ 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 house is located close to the road and oriented to the north toward the street. A gravel drive is located between the house and the street. A narrow strip of lawn is located near the house; the remainder of the lot is wooded. The 1-story frame house rests on a parged masonry foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. A slender brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge. The house is covered with vertical boards; boards in the gable peak have rounded ends. The house is trimmed with gable-end cornice returns, a wide frieze, and corner boards. The façade contains a side-hall plan entrance and two window bays. The entrance contains a four-panel Italianate wood door framed by half-height sidelights. A shallow, gable-roof projection shelters the entrance. Two windows are located in the gable peak. The east (side) elevation is two bays wide. Windows throughout the main block are 2/2 wood sash with a flat surround and shallow pointed-arch crowns and sills.

A narrow, perpendicular ell extends from the main block's west elevation and rests on a rough fieldstone foundation. The ell has a steeply-pitched gable roof with no overhang. The ell's west elevation contains two replacement vinyl sash windows with crowns that simulate those on the main block. Along the ell's north elevation is what appears to be an enclosed shed-roof porch. The enclosed porch contains two 1/1 windows and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The ell's off-center recessed doorway is marked with rounded vertical board trim along the lintel. A metal door is located in the entryway. A 1-story projection atop a poured concrete foundation also extends from the ell's south elevation. The south projection contains a small square window in its west elevation. The ell is covered with vertical boards.

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.

454 South Street was likely constructed circa 1884, the year in which Dennis J. Bisbee purchased this parcel of land from his father-in-law, Henry Holbrook.¹ (Henry Holbrook lived across the street at the time.) Born in Maine, Dennis J. Bisbee (1845-1919)² served in the Civil War and married Azelia Abby Holbrook (1847-1925)³ of Stoughton in 1875. Dennis J. Bisbee worked as a "shoe finisher" and, later, as a farmer according to census records. The couple had two children.

In 1894, Elmer E. Keene (1860-1943) purchased the house from Dennis Bisbee.⁴ Elmer Keene worked in a shoe factory and lived here with his wife, Sadie (1864-), whom he had married in 1888. The extended Keene family made this their residence, including Elmer and Sadie's son, Charles, Elmer's mother, Mary, and Elmer's sister, Una Chase, according to census records. Elmer and Sadie's son, Charles (ca. 1894-), sold the property in 1944.⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

Hanna, William F. *The Story of Avon*. Avon: Avon Centennial Committee, 1988.

Massachusetts Vital Records.

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 556, p. 7.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #234908706. Accessed Oct. 25, 2022.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial #234909216. Accessed Oct. 25, 2022.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 771, p. 369.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2486, p. 211.

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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.



View looking southeast.