

FORM B – BUILDING

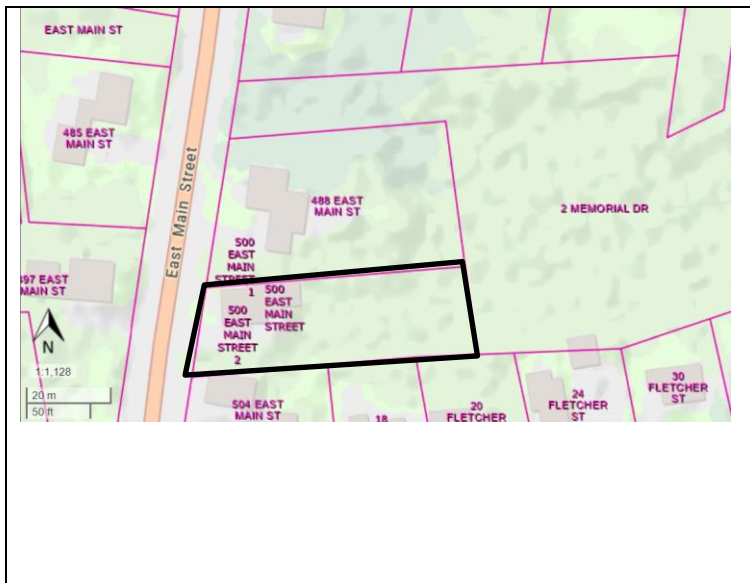
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking northeast and west and south elevations.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (month / year): December 2022

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

D3/ 12/ 21/ /

Brockton

AVO.40

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 500 East Main Street

Historic Name: Cordelia and Andrew Fosdick House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1874

Source: Mortgage date

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding / Vinyl Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Gable dormers and connecting gable; Vinyl siding; Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.31

Setting: Located on a suburban street amid houses constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

500 EAST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.40

☐ 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 lot that slopes down to the northeast, the house is oriented to the south and perpendicular to the street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from the street past the façade (south elevation). Mature trees fill the rear (east) portion of the lot. The frame house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises one story to a side-gabled roof. The north and south roof slopes have a shallow overhang; there is no overhang on the side elevations. A wide dormer fills the south roof slope. The dormer appears to have been constructed as two gable dormers that were later connected by a shed dormer. A small, interior brick chimney rises from the south roof slope near the roof ridge. The symmetrical, 5-bay façade has a center entrance containing a pressed-panel metal door. A small, shed-roof projection attached to the east end of the north elevation contains a similar metal door. A 2-story side-gabled ell with a shallow gable roof is attached to the east elevation of the main block. The ell is three bays wide and contains an entrance at the first and second stories of its south elevation. The building's sloped site accommodates the ell's banked basement. The ell's north elevation contains a full-height basement with three windows. Windows throughout the building are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with internal faux muntins.

The building's 1-story size and form are a common vernacular for houses in New England during the 18th and 19th centuries. The loss of original building details and materials makes it difficult to discern its original design.

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.

The house was likely constructed in circa 1874, the year in which Cordelia Fosdick and her husband, Andrew J. Fosdick, took out a mortgage on the property.¹ Andrew J. Fosdick (1832-1917)² and Cornelia White Fosdick (1839-1910),³ were married in 1860 in Bangor, Maine. The couple relocated to Stoughton from Milford, New Hampshire, where they were living at the time of the 1870 census. The 1880 census records them as residents of East Main Street, living here with their six children and a servant. The 1880 census notes Andrew J. Fosdick's occupation as "insurance agent." Curiously, the house does not appear on the 1888 map of Avon; More research is recommended.

Agnes K. Weston owned the house from 1903 until 1915.⁴ Agnes Weston worked as a grammar school teacher and lived here with her daughter, Beatrice, and Beatrice's husband, George Bryant. John and Kathryn Dondero owned the house from 1936 until 1961.⁵ At the time of the 1940 census, John Dondero was working on a W.P.A. project in Brockton.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

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

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Norfolk County*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1884.

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 453, p. 548.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #217616507. Accessed Nov. 7, 2022.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial #85087235. Accessed Nov. 7, 2022.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 966, p. 368 and 1317, p. 101.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2114, p. 388 and 3875, p. 161.

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500 EAST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Massachusetts Vital Records.
Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.
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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.
World War II Draft Registration Cards. Ancestry.com.



View looking east at north and west elevations.