

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

### Photograph



View looking northeast.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

**Date (month / year):** December 2022

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

C6/ 1/ 30/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.78

**Town/City:** Avon

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

**Address:** 51 West High Street

**Historic Name:** Leonard and Mary Holmes House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1855

**Source:** Deed; Census

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (ca. 1920)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Chimney removed;  
Asbestos siding; Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20<sup>th</sup>  
C or early 21<sup>st</sup> C)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.64 acre

**Setting:** Located on a suburban residential street amid  
houses of similar age, size, setback and materials.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

51 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.78

☐ 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 1½-story house is located on a level lot covered with lawn and oriented to the south, facing the street. The house is two-over-three bays wide and three bays deep. The house rests on a stone foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. The recessed side-hall plan entrance at the east bay contains a Queen Anne-style paneled wood door with a large light surrounded by small square lights in the top half. Full-height sidelights frame the entrance. A hipped-roof porch supported by square-section wood columns extends the width of the façade. A wrought-iron railing encloses the porch. Two small 1-story ells extend from the north end of the house. The south ell is two bays deep and capped with a shallow gable roof. The north, perpendicular, ell has a gable roof with gable-end cornice returns. The ell is one bay deep. A wood porch constructed of dimensional lumber leads to the entrance on the south elevation of the perpendicular ell. A door similar to that on the façade is located in the entrance. Windows throughout the house are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with narrow, molded wood surrounds.

The house is a common house type constructed during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in Avon. The house retains a low level of integrity due to a loss of original 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.*

High Street – later known as East High Street and West High Street -- was laid out in the 1840s. The new road connected Page Street with Main Street and the new Fall River Railroad station located just over the municipal line in Randolph (later, the Avon station). New houses began to be constructed along West High Street near present-day Goeres Square in the 1840s. Many of these new houses were constructed for members of the prominent Tucker and Littlefield shoe manufacturing families. 51 West High Street was owned by members of the Littlefield family from the time of its construction circa 1855 until 1937.

- 1855. Bootmaker Leonard Holmes purchased this house from his brother-in-law George W. Littlefield.<sup>1</sup> Leonard Holmes (1826-1878)<sup>2</sup> married Mary B. Littlefield (1829-1907)<sup>3</sup> in 1846 and the couple lived here with their daughter until 1877. (George W. Littlefield owned several properties locally – census records and maps appear to indicate that he did not reside here.)
- 1877. Leonard and Mary Holmes sold the house to Mary's cousin, George F. Littlefield.<sup>4</sup> George F. Littlefield also worked in the boot manufacturing industry and lived here with his wife, Hettie, until they sold the house in 1893.
- 1893-1909. Shoe manufacturer Loring G. Littlefield (1848-1909) owned the house.<sup>5</sup>
- 1909-1913. Loring G. Littlefield's children, Celia and George H. Littlefield, owned the house.<sup>6</sup>
- 1914-1937. Loring G. Littlefield owned the house.<sup>7</sup>

It is unclear which members of the family lived in the house at what time. (More research is recommended.)

<sup>1</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 234, p. 473.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/102197507/leonard-holmes>. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121452162/mary-b-porter>. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 487, p. 195.

<sup>5</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 680, p. 124.

<sup>6</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1244, p. 454.

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2158, p. 242.

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View looking north.