

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D4/ 9/ 6/ 1

Blue Hills

AVO.102

**Town/City:** Avon

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

## Photograph



View looking northeast.

**Address:** 544 West Main Street

**Historic Name:** Abner and Azubah Drake House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1830

**Source:** Marriage Date, Visual Assessment

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not Visible

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

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

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.46

**Setting:** Located on a busy suburban thoroughfare.  
Surrounding houses date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

544 WEST MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 very close to the street, the house is oriented to the south and perpendicular to the street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the façade (south elevation) to a parking area at the east end of the house. The 1½-story frame house is two bays wide and capped with a gable roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. A slender brick interior chimney is centered on the roof ridge; a second, exterior brick chimney is centered on the north elevation. A gable dormer containing a pair of small 6/1 wood sash windows is centered on the south elevation. A shed dormer is located on the north roof slope. The hipped-roof porch located along the width of the façade is partially enclosed at the east end. The porch's open west end is supported by a round wood column beneath a wide frieze. The entrance is located in the west elevation of the enclosed porch. A series of small 1-story ells is attached to the east elevation. The house is covered with wood shingles and trimmed with cornerboards. Unless otherwise noted, windows are vinyl sash replacements. Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

## 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.*

544 West Main Street was likely constructed circa 1830 for Abner Drake, Jr. on land purchased by his father in 1817.<sup>1</sup> Abner Drake, Jr. (1804-1894)<sup>2</sup> married his wife, Azubah (1809-1876)<sup>3</sup> in 1830. Jonathan May (1809-1885)<sup>4</sup> purchased the house in 1840.<sup>5</sup> May worked as a cordwainer (shoemaker) and lived here with his wife, Mary Ann Beal (1808-1886), whom he had married in 1830. In 1859, bootmaker Edward Scannell purchased the house.<sup>6</sup> An Irish immigrant, Scannell worked as a laborer. The Scannell family sold the house in 1918.<sup>7</sup> Swedish immigrants Gunnar and Betty Peterson owned the house from 1924 until 1976.<sup>8</sup> Gunnar Peterson worked at a grocery store.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Findagrave.com.  
Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.  
Massachusetts Vital Records.  
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.

<sup>1</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 54, p. 418.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57698490/abner-drake>. Accessed Dec. 21, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57698836/azubah-c-drake>. Accessed Dec. 21, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #214557469. Accessed Oct. 9, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 127, p. 593.

<sup>6</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 279, p. 253 [503].

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1398, p. 485.

<sup>8</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 5211, p. 246.

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Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.  
United States Census. Ancestry.com.  
Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Norfolk County, Mass.* Boston: Smith & Bumstead, 1858.

