

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

D5/ 6/ 1/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.27

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 58 East Main Street

Historic Name: Bartlett Collins Carriage Storage Building

Uses: Present: Commercial Garage

Original: Carriage Storage Building

Date of Construction: ca. 1878

Source: Deed, map

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not Visible

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding; Asphalt Shingle

Roof: Rolled Composition Roofing; Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Addition to west elevation (post-1916); Vinyl siding and asphalt shingle siding added; Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.19

Setting: Located on a busy north-south regional route amid 1- and 2-story residences, small retail buildings and commercial establishments. A large, wooded area abuts the property to the east.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

58 EAST MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.27

☐ 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 building consists of a large 1-story, main block with a smaller 2-story addition attached to the west (front) elevation. The building is located on a level lot with scattered shrubs and grasses along its narrow side yard. An asphalt-paved parking area fills the space between the roadway and the west (front) elevation.

The main block has an asphalt-shingled front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and is covered with oriented strand board. The south elevation contains two windows. The 2-story addition has a shallow-pitched, front-gabled roof with shallow eaves. The addition is covered with rolled asphalt siding and asphalt shingles on its side elevations and vinyl siding on the façade. The first story contains a large vehicle bay with an overhead metal door at the north end of the façade. A double-leaf metal pedestrian door is centered on the façade. A 2-light fixed window is located beside the pedestrian door to the south. The second story contains two 1/1 vinyl sash windows.

The building has undergone substantial alterations that have resulted in a loss of integrity. The building is a rare survivor of its type.

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 Bartlett Collins Carriage Storage Building was constructed circa 1878. Bartlett Collins began his carriage shop business in Avon (then East Stoughton) in 1856.¹ Bartlett (given name Bartholomew) Collins (1836-1907) emigrated from Galway, Ireland to the United States in 1849 or 1851.² By the time of the 1860 census, he was working as a wheelwright in Stoughton. In 1864, Collins married Margaret Rooney (1843-1919),³ who was also born in Ireland. The couple had six children. The Collins house was located on the present-day location of town hall. At Avon's first town meeting in 1888, Bartlett Collins was elected to the first Board of Selectmen.

In 1865, Bartlett Collins purchased a ¼-acre lot on the west side of East Main Street and had a carriage shop constructed (i.e., 53 East Main Street, AVO.26).⁴ Collins expanded the business in the 1870s with the purchase of an additional lot with buildings on the west side of East Main Street in 1876⁵ and the lot at 58 East Main Street in 1878.⁶ Collins had the building at 58 East Main Street constructed as a carriage storage building.

Bartlett Collins' carriage factory also employed wheelwrights and carriage painters. When Bartlett Collins' son, John J. Collins, came of age, he joined his father's business as a blacksmith. Beginning in the 1890s, the business is listed in city directories as "carriage maker and blacksmith." John J. Collins (1865-1941)⁷ and his wife, Nellie (1877-1951), were married in 1905. John J. Collins continued the business after his father's death in 1907. The 1911 directory lists his business as "blacksmith,

¹ Hanna, Chapter 8.

² U.S. Passport application, Stephen B. Collins (son of Bartholomew and Margaret Collins). August 4, 1920. Also: 1900 U.S. Census states immigration year as 1849.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158696881/margaret-collins>. Accessed Feb. 28, 2022.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 335, p. 152.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 483, p. 473.

⁶ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 503, p. 217.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158696878/john-j-collins>. Accessed March 2, 2022.

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wheelwright, and carriage painter." By 1920, the business also included automobile painting.⁸ In the 1920s, John J. Collins began work as Avon Town Clerk, a position he held until at least 1940. It appears that John J. Collins closed his shop in the 1930s. The Collins family sold 58 East Main Street in 1947.⁹

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas. 1916.

Sherman, G.A. *Atlas of Norfolk County*. New York: Comstock & Cline. 1876.

Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.

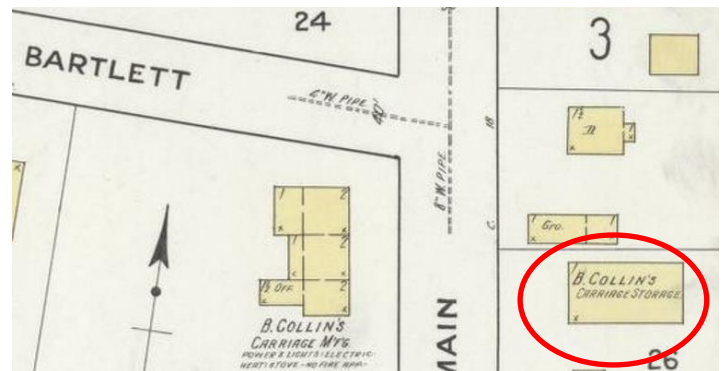
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United States Passport Applications. Ancestry.com.

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Norfolk County, Mass.* Boston: Smith & Bumstead. 1858.



View looking southeast.



1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas.

⁸ U.S. Census. 1920.

⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2703, p. 427.