

FORM B – BUILDING

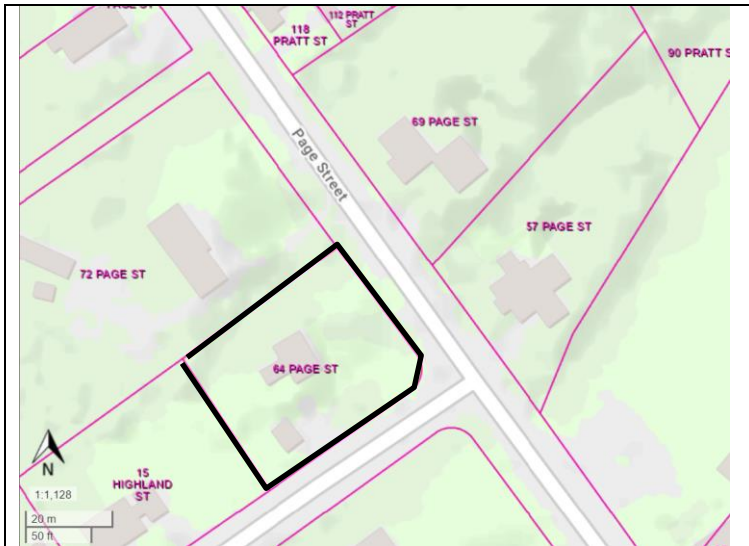
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking south from Page Street toward façade and north elevation.

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/ 2/ 2/ 1

Blue Hills

AVO.52
AVO.53

Town/City: Avon

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 64 Page Street

Historic Name: Rev. David and Rhoda Curtis House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1844

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding/ Vinyl Trim, Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (ca. 1920)

Major Alterations (with dates): Colonial Revival style door (mid-20th C); Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.36

Setting: Located on a suburban side street lined with houses of similar size and setting. A neighborhood of late 19th century and early 20th century frame dwellings located along Highland Street to the southwest. Construction dates for nearby houses on Page Street range from the last quarter of the 19th century through the mid-20th century.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

64 PAGE ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	AVO.52
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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 on a corner lot covered with lawn, the house is oriented to the east, toward Page Street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Highland Street to a detached garage located at the southwest corner of the lot. The gently-sloping site is terraced with the use of a curving fieldstone retaining wall that extends along the house's façade and south elevation. A run of cut stone steps, incorporated into the retaining wall, leads from the front yard to the façade.

The 1½-story house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises to a side-gabled roof with a shallow box cornice along the façade; there is no roof overhang on the side elevations. A slender, off-center chimney rises from the east roof slope. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep, with two windows in each gable peak. The center entrance contains a Colonial Revival paneled wood door with a four-light semicircular window. The door is framed by narrow, half-height sidelights, fluted pilasters and a wide frieze. A 1-story, perpendicular ell is centered on the rear (west) elevation. The ell is three bays wide. A gabled porch (late 20th or early 21st C) with a vinyl or metal balustrade shelters the door and a single window located in the ell's gable end. Windows throughout the house are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with interior faux, muntins. The building is typical of houses constructed here during the second quarter of the 19th century. The 1 ½-story form, cut stone foundation, and shallow eaves are common features of that period.

The frame garage (ca. 1920, AVO.53) has an asphalt-shingled gable roof with overhanging eaves. Clad with wood novelty siding and trimmed with cornerboards, the building contains an off-center overhead vehicle door (mid-20th C) in the south (gable) elevation. A single window is centered in the side elevations. Although in poor physical condition, the garage is noteworthy as a surviving outbuilding.

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.

64 Page Street was likely constructed circa 1844, the year in which David Curtis purchased 22 acres of land on the west side of Page Street.¹ Rev. David Curtis (1782-1869) was born in East Stoughton and was graduated from Brown University with an A.M. degree in 1808.² In 1810, Curtis married Rhoda Keach (1790-1864) of Smithfield, Rhode Island. The couple had thirteen children.³ Rev. Curtis served as the first pastor of the First Baptist Church of Crompton, Warwick, Rhode Island, and taught school there for a time.⁴ He later "preached about two years at Harwich, Mass. and about the same time at New Bedford. He then removed to Abington, Mass., where he remained about eight years, a part of which time he was the pastor of the church there. He then removed to Fiskeville, R.I. and preached about two years, also about two years at Chepachet."⁵ Rev. Curtis also served as pastor of the Medway First Baptist Church 1843-1845.⁶

Around 1845, Rev. Curtis returned to his hometown of East Stoughton, "preaching as he had opportunity to various churches, but without being settled as a pastor."⁷ Rev. David Curtis and his wife, Rhoda, lived at 64 Page Street with their daughter, Eliza,

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 149, p. 176.

² Koopman, *Historical Catalogue of Brown University*: 54.

³ Fuller, *The History of Warwick, Rhode Island*: 326.

⁴ Fuller: 176, 323.

⁵ Fuller: 326.

⁶ Hurd: 548.

⁷ Fuller: 326.

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and her husband, George W. Richardson, a bootmaker whom she married in 1846 in his native town of Medway. In 1867, David Curtis sold the house to George W. Richardson.⁸

Mary F. Murphy purchased the house from the Richardson estate in 1904 and lived here until her death.⁹ Census records indicate that Mary F. Murphy (1870-1928)¹⁰ lived here with her sister and supported herself as a self-employed dressmaker and, later, by sharing the house with renters.

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View looking northwest from Page Street toward façade and south elevation.



View looking northeast from Highland Street. Detached garage in foreground.

⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 351, p. 81 [161].

⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 994, p. 157 and 2241, p. 160.

¹⁰ Findagrave.com Memorial #161150775. Accessed Nov. 5, 2022.