

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View looking southeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (month / year): December 2022

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

D6/ 6/ 17/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.18

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 79 East High Street

Historic Name: Patrick and Catherine McGonnigle House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1895

Source: Deed, Census

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Parged Masonry

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards, Wood Shingles /
Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.21 acre

Setting: Located on a suburban residential street amid houses constructed from mid-19th to mid-20th C.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

79 EAST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.18

☐ 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 level corner lot covered with lawn, the house is oriented to the north, toward East High Street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Robbins Street to the southwest corner of the house. Mature trees line the rear lot line.

The 1½-story frame house rests on a parged masonry foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves adorned with a bargeboard. The bargeboard features alternating rondels and attenuated rectangular panels. The gable peak is adorned with a triangular panel with a trefoil design above a spindle valance. A slender brick chimney rises from the west roof slope just south of the tower. The building is clad with wood clapboards trimmed with cornerboards and a wide frieze. The gable peaks contain rectangular and rounded wood shingles. A shed-roof porch supported by turned wood posts with jigsaw corner brackets wraps around the façade and west elevations. A turned wood valance spans each porch bay. A turned wood balustrade with newel posts encloses the porch. The façade's first story, sheltered by the porch, contains a storm door at the east end and two tall sash windows.

A shed dormer is centered on the house's east elevation, which is four bays deep. A diamond-shaped, wood-framed Queen Anne window located at the north end of the east elevation illuminates the stairwell within. A 2-story octagonal tower capped with a steeply-pitched hip roof extends from the center of the west elevation. The tower is clad with wood clapboards trimmed with cornerboards with a shingled band located between the first and second stories. A shed-roof porch on the west elevation extends from the tower to the southwest corner of the house. The porch shelters an entrance and a single window and features similar trim to that located on the façade porch. The rear (south) elevation contains a single casement window at the first story and two sash windows in the half-story. Unless otherwise noted, windows throughout the building are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with internal faux muntins. The wood surrounds consist of wide, flat boards with a narrow crown and curvilinear appliques.

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.

79 East High Street was likely constructed circa 1895, the year in which Patrick McGonnigle purchased this lot of land.¹ Patrick Edward McGonnigle (1856-1941)² and his wife, Catherine Reilly McGonnigle (1858-1931)³ were married in 1887 and lived here with their family. Patrick McGonnigle was the proprietor of a grocery store located at the southwest corner of Main Street and West High Street. McGonnigle served Avon as a member of the first school committee created when Avon became its own town in 1888. Daughter Nora McGonnigle worked as a secretary for a paper company and lived here for the remainder of her life. Her brother, Edward, also lived here for a time and worked as a packing clerk. The McGonnigle family owned the house until 1968.⁴

79 East High Street is one of several houses in Avon that retain their decorative woodwork. While the form of the main block (front-gabled, gable-end cornice returns, wide frieze, 1½ stories) was common locally beginning circa 1850, the addition of the tower and decorative treatments place this building firmly among designs popular in the last decade of the 19th century. The

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 746, p. 69.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/160365671/patrick-edward-mcgonnigle>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/160365660/catherine-cecil-mcgonnigle>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4491, p. 582.

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79 EAST HIGH STREET

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AVO.18

house is nearly identical to 224 East Main Street (AVO.____) and was likely constructed by the same builder. (Although now altered with siding and the removal of decorative trim, 266 West Main Street was likely also the same design.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. New York: E. Robinson, Publisher. 1888.

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View looking northeast.



View looking southwest.