

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

D6/ 7/ 16/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.19

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking northwest.

Locus Map



Address: 82-84 East High Street

Historic Name: Michael and Mary Horne House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1852

Source: Deed; 1858 map

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut / Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (ca. 1930)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Façade converted to two entrances (late 19th C). Replacement vinyl sash windows (late 20th C or early 21st C); Hipped-roof addition (ca. 1991)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.41

Setting: Located on a suburban residential street. Surrounding houses range in age from mid-19th-early 21st C.

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

82-84 EAST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.19

☐ 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 lot covered with lawn, the house is oriented to the south toward the street. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the west elevation to a parking area and detached 1-car garage. A cut stone retaining wall lines the East High Street frontage and the east edge of the driveway. Three cut stone steps and a brick walkway lead from the street to the house.

The house consists of a 2-story main block, a 1½-story perpendicular ell, and an enclosed porch located at the southwest corner of the house. The main block and ell have gable roofs with deep overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns above a wide frieze. A slender brick chimney is located at the north end of the main block's roof ridge. The main block is three bays wide and two bays deep with a single window in the gable peak. The entrance contains two paneled wood doors. The doors' top halves each contain a single rectangular light surrounded by small square lights. Three large decorative brackets support the shelter above the doors. These curvilinear, compound wood brackets feature pendants and geometric designs. The ell, which rests on a brick foundation, is two bays deep with a single window in the half-story. A shed dormer is centered on the south roof slope. The enclosed, hipped-roof addition (likely a former porch) that fills the southwest corner of the house rests on a concrete block foundation. The addition is two bays deep with a four-casement bow window on the south elevation. Windows are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements with backband surrounds at the first floor and narrow, molded surrounds at the second floor. Screw-on plastic shutters are located on the façade.

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.

82-84 East High Street was likely constructed circa 1852, the year in which Michael Horne purchased this lot of land, which was located partially in East Stoughton and partially in Randolph (Holbrook).¹ Michael Horne (1810-1883)² and his wife, Mary McGovern Horne (1813-1876),³ were both born in Ireland and married circa 1840. Michael Horne worked in a boot factory.

It appears that from 1891 until 1926, the house was rented out and owned by non-resident owners. From 1891 until 1916, the house was one of several properties owned by Avon real estate investor David H. Blanchard and his wife, Anne.⁴ Based on the stylistic features of the paired entrance, it seems likely that the house was converted into multiple units at this time. The house may have also been enlarged during this time.

In 1926, William and Elizabeth Whittemore purchased the property.⁵ William Whittemore, a retired edge trimmer in a shoe factory, and his wife, Elizabeth, had lived on West Main Street for many years prior to the purchased of this house. The 1930 census recorded 93-year-old William Whittemore and 78-year-old Elizabeth Whittemore at this address. After their deaths, the property was transferred to their daughter Lulu Whittemore Soule.

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 210, p.359.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #100889474. Accessed November 29, 2022.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial #100889496. Accessed November 29, 2022.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 661, p. 572 and Book 1347, p. 271.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1711, p. 280.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

82-84 EAST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.19

In 1937, Harry C. Williams purchased the house.⁶ The 1940 census included Harry C. Williams, a shoe factory foreman, and his wife, Sadie, in one apartment and Wallace Williams, a shoe worker, his wife, Doris, in the other apartment. The Williams family owned the house until 1968.⁷

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

Hanna, William F. *The Story of Avon*. Avon: Avon Centennial Committee, 1988.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.

Norfolk County Commissioners. "Plan Showing the Relocation and Widening of High Street, Avon from Page Street to the NYNH&HRR." Dec. 10, 1929. Sheet 2 of 3. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Plan 1050 of 1929, Plan Book 111.

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.

Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

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



View looking northeast.



View looking north. Note stone wall and steps at sidewalk.

⁶ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2147, p. 203.

⁷ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4557, p. 404.