

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View looking southwest.

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/ 4/ 11/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.81
AVO.136

Town/City: Avon

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 82 West High Street

Historic Name: Dennis and Mary Shean House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1849

Source: Deed; Census

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingles / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn/Garage (pre-1916)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Porch and shed dormers added (1989); Rear ell expanded and replacement wood sash windows (early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.49 acre

Setting: Located on a suburban residential street amid houses of similar age, size, setback, and materials.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

82 WEST HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.81
AVO.136

☐ 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 house is located on a level lot and oriented to the east (perpendicular to the street). A cut stone retaining wall lines the north lot line along the sidewalk. A poured concrete driveway leads past the house's east elevation to a barn-sized garage at the rear of the lot. The lot is covered with lawn and scattered mature trees.

The house consists of a 1½-story main block and a perpendicular 2-story ell, both of which rest on a cut stone foundation. The main block is capped with a gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. Two brick chimneys with corbeled caps are located at the roof ridge. Shed dormers extend the length of the east and west elevations. The house is two bays wide at the north gable end and six bays wide along the east elevation. The façade contains an off-center entrance sheltered by a small, pedimented porch supported by turned wood posts (late 20th or early 21st C). Windows in the north and east elevations are 12/12 wood sash with exterior metal-frame storm windows and wide, flat surrounds. Two bays of large casement windows are located on the west elevation. Windows in the shed dormers are 6/6 wood sash.

A detached 2-story barn (ca. 1900, AVO.136) is located immediately south of the house. The building is covered with wood shingles and trimmed with cornerboards and a wide wood frieze. The gable roof has overhanging eaves. A garage door (early 21st C) is centered in the north gable end and surmounted by a square hayloft door. Replacement sash windows are located beside the garage door and in the gable peak.

While the 1½-story main block with its gable end facing the street is a common mid-19th century local building type, the extensive alterations have reduced the building's level of integrity.

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 West High Street was likely constructed circa 1849, the year in which Dennis Shean (Sheehan) purchased this lot of land.¹ Dennis Sheehan (1820-1899)² and his wife, Mary Garde Sheehan (1826-1898),³ were both born in Ireland and married in 1848. The couple had nine children. Census records note that Dennis Shean worked as a laborer and in a shoe factory, as did most of his sons and daughter, Mary. Daughter Mary E. Sheehan (1859-1949)⁴ never married and lived here until she sold the house in 1946.⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

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

Massachusetts Vital Records.

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 188, p. 410.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161562855/dennis-sheehan>. Accessed Nov. 10, 2022.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161562860/mary-sheehan>. Accessed Nov. 10, 2022.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161562861/mary-e-sheehan>. Accessed Nov. 10, 2022.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2607, p. 485.

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Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. New York: E. Robinson, Publisher, 1888.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas. 1916.
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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

