

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

See Data Sheet

Blue Hills

AVO.
C

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Sheet

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

Photograph



View looking northeast toward 44 East Main Street (left) and 46 East Main Street (right).

Town/City: Avon

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: East High Street Area

Present Use: Single Family Dwellings; Multiple Family Dwellings

Construction Dates or Period: ca. 1847-1888

Overall Condition: Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Vinyl siding; Vinyl replacement sash

Acreage: 2.5 acres

Recorded by: Stacy E. Spies

Organization: Avon Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): December 2022

Locus Map



☐ see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

EAST HIGH STREET AREA

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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, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Area is a collection of seven frame houses constructed during the third quarter of the 19th century that feature stylistic elements typical of the period. The lots along the north side of East High Street slope gently down to the street; Lots along the south side of the street are level. The houses are all oriented toward the street with similar setbacks and settings. Asphalt-paved driveways lead past the houses' side elevations to parking areas or garages/barns located near the rear of the house. Lots are covered with lawn and scattered mature trees. Mature trees are also located along the rear lot lines. One house, 34 East High Street, features a terraced front yard and a large cut stone retaining wall along the sidewalk.

The house at 20 East High Street (ca. 1847, AVO.109) appears to have been constructed in the Greek Revival style and enlarged in the 1860s or 1870s with Gothic Revival and Italianate details. The main block is three bays wide and four bays deep with a pair of windows in each gable peak. A long perpendicular ell (likely added during the 1860s or 1870s) extends from the rear (north) elevation. A 1-story, Italianate carriage house connects to the northwest corner of the ell. The house, ell, and carriage house are covered with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. 2/2 wood sash windows with external metal-frame storm windows are located throughout the main block and ell.

The Greek Revival side-hall plan main block rises two stories to a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. Two slender brick chimneys are located on the north roof slope. The façade's first story, sheltered by the porch, is clad with wood flushboards. A paneled wood door located in the east end of the façade contains twelve small lights in its top half and is framed with a molded wood surround. A shed-roof porch (likely added during the 1860s or 1870s) wraps around the façade (south) and west elevations. The chamfered wood posts rest on shallow wood plinths and are capped with compound capitals. Decorative wood brackets are attached to the beaded spandrels above each post. Greek Revival channeled wood surrounds frame the windows. A 1-story, 1x1-bay, shed-roof projection is attached to the main block's east elevation. The long, narrow ell is four bays deep and rises two stories to a shallow gable roof. A brick chimney with a corbeled cap is centered on the roof ridge. A 1-story bay window with bracketed eaves and a paired window is located on the ell's east elevations. The ell's windows have shallow, unmolded surrounds with shallow, pointed-arch crowns.

The carriage house (ca. 1870) is oriented to the south and attached to the ell with a small, 1-story connector. The carriage house rests on a brick foundation and rises one story to a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. A gable dormer containing a pair of 1/1 rounded-head sash windows is centered on the south roof slope. A brick chimney is located atop the roof ridge. The façade contains a pair of overhead wood garage doors (mid-20th C) flanked by round-arched 1/1 sash windows. The west elevation contains two sash windows (one round-arched 2/1 and one replacement rectangular 6/6) and a pair of round-arched windows in the gable peak. The rounded door and window surrounds throughout the carriage house are molded wood.

The 2-story Italianate house at 26 East High Street (ca. 1873, AVO.110) rests on a brick foundation. The T-plan house appears to have been constructed to contain two side-by-side dwelling units. The house is capped with a hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The façade (south elevation) features a broad, center cross gable with an oculus in the gable peak. Tall, segmental-arch dormers are centered on the east and west elevations. Interior brick chimneys rise from the dormers. A hipped-roof ell that appears to have been constructed at the same time as the main block extends from the

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rear (north) elevation. The deep eaves throughout the house feature a frieze, a dentil course and pairs of decorative wood brackets. The symmetrical main block is four bays wide and two bays deep. The façade's center entrance contains a pair of paneled wood doors that each contain a large light in the top half. Bay windows flanking the entrance are connected by a hipped-roof porch supported by square wood posts topped with capitals. The bay windows located in the north end of the east and west elevations retain a wood frieze and decorative wood brackets. A two-story deck and stairs located at the ell's west elevation are constructed of dimensional lumber (late 20th C). The vinyl-sided house contains replacement vinyl sash windows throughout.

The 2-story Italianate house at 34 East High Street (ca. 1851-1855, AVO.111) is located on the top tier of the terraced site. Short runs of poured concrete steps with curved parapets and wrought-iron railings, three at the south elevation and two at the west elevation, are located at each change in elevation. A retaining wall of large cut stones separates the lawn from the sidewalk. The house is capped with a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves articulated with paired wood brackets. The house is covered with vinyl siding and trimmed with wood corner pilasters, a frieze, and gable-end cornice returns. The side-hall plan main block is three bays wide and three bays deep with a single window in the gable peak. The second-story and attic windows retain their original molded wood crowns. A porch supported by turned wood posts wraps around the façade and west elevations. The entrance contains a paneled wood door with a large oval light in the top half. A 2-story ell, likely constructed at the same time as the main block, extends from the rear elevation. A 1-story, gable-roof ell attached to the east elevation appears to have been constructed in the late 20th century. Windows throughout the house are vinyl sash replacements.

The 1½-story house at 41 East High Street (ca. 1849, AVO.112) is three bays wide and three bays deep. The house rests on a stone foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. An interior brick chimney rises from the roof ridge. The side-hall plan entrance contains a paneled wood door. A hipped-roof porch shelters the entrance and wraps around the west elevation, where it terminates at a small, 1-story ell attached to the south end of the west elevation. The house is covered with vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements.

The main block of the 1½-story house at 44 East High Street (ca. 1848-1850, AVO.113) is two-over-three bays wide. The T-plan house rests on a stone foundation and rises to a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. The house is clad with wood shingles on the south elevation and wood clapboards on the side elevations. The house is trimmed with wood cornerboards and a wide frieze. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge. Low shed dormers are located at the side elevations of the main block. The side-hall plan entrance contains a paneled wood door with two tall, slender lights in the top half. The entry shelter is supported by large decorative wood brackets. The 1½-story perpendicular ell attached to the rear elevation of the main block is two bays deep. Windows at the second story are 2/2 wood sash; windows at the first story appear to be 1/1 vinyl sash replacements. Windows throughout the house have wide surrounds with slender projecting crowns.

The 1½-story house at 46 East High Street (ca. 1880-1888, AVO.114) is two-over-three bays wide and three bays deep. The house is capped with a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. An interior brick chimney is centered on the roof ridge. A shed dormer is located at the east elevation. An enclosed porch fills the first story of the façade. The entrance located on the west end of the porch contains a paneled wood door with two tall, slender lights in the top half. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the windows are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements. A poured concrete retaining wall and steps are located at the sidewalk.

The 1½-story house at 52 East High Street (ca. 1877, AVO.115) is two bays wide and three bays deep. The house is capped with a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. An interior brick chimney is located on the east roof slope. The house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a frieze. A hipped-roof bay window is located at the north end of the east elevation. A small, 1-story perpendicular ell is attached to the northeast corner of the house. The side-hall plan façade contains a paneled wood door. The Colonial Revival surround features fluted wood pilasters beneath a molded wood pediment. A bay window is located beside the entrance. Windows are vinyl sash replacements with narrow wood crowns.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

High Street, later divided into East High Street and West High Street, was laid out in the 1840s. The new road connected Page Street with Main Street and the new Fall River Railroad station just over the municipal line in Randolph (later, the Avon station). New houses began to be constructed along the west end of East High Street near present-day Goeres Square in the 1840s. Several of these new houses were constructed for family members of the prominent Blanchard and Littlefield shoe manufacturing firms and for residents of a certain social status, especially physicians. Over the next few decades, smaller houses were constructed amid the earlier, larger dwellings. These smaller houses were typically owned by employees of one of the several shoe and boot manufacturers in town.

20 East High Street (ca. 1847, AVO.109) was likely constructed soon after Dr. Joseph B. Walker (ca. 1821-) and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased this parcel of land.¹ Merchant and grocer Nathan Blanchard (1820–1897)² owned the house from 1853 until 1879³ and lived here with his wife, Amelia and their daughters. The Caine family owned the house from 1888 until 1917.⁴ Kate Bannon Cain (1833-1904)⁵ lived here with her husband, James B. Cain (1832-1898),⁶ a shoemaker, and their family. The Haefle family owned the house from 1924 until 1964.⁷

The Crane-Beals House, 44 East High Street (ca. 1848-1850, AVO.113), was constructed for bootmaker Francis B. Crane and his wife, Lois.⁸ Stoughton native Francis Bradford Crane (1817-1901) and his wife, Lois Lothrop Crane (1815-1886),⁹ were married in 1840. The 1850 census records them at this location. Alden and Betsy Capen owned the house from 1852-1855.¹⁰ Henry M. Beals purchased the house in 1855; three generations of the Beals family owned the house until it was sold in 1924.¹¹ Henry M. Beals (1826-1901) married Lucy Bracket (1829-1892) in 1847 and lived here with their son, Henry W. Beals. Henry M. Beals worked for Peach's shoe factory in Avon. Henry Walter Beals (1848-) and his wife, Juletta Nightingale Beals (1850-1926), were married in 1868 and initially made this their residence as well. Henry W. Beals worked as "treer" in a shoe factory and Juletta Beals worked as a dressmaker. The family also owned 46 East High Street (ca. 1880-1888, AVO.114). In the 1920s, Henry W. and Juletta Beals sold 44 and 46 East High Street to investor and Avon selectman Frank McNiff, who lived at 79 East High Street and at 68 Robbins Street. McNiff owned several properties in East Stoughton and Avon. McNiff owned 46 East High Street until 1943 and 44 East High Street until 1944.¹²

41 East High Street (ca. 1849, AVO.112) was likely constructed around the time that Sherman S. Nourse purchased this lot of land.¹³ Sherman Shattuck Nourse (also recorded as Nurse) (ca. 1815-1895) and his wife, Adaline Linfield Nourse (ca. 1825-), were married in 1842 in Stoughton. Sherman Nourse worked as a teamster and as a bootmaker and served as a Trustee of the First Baptist Church of Stoughton.¹⁴ Nourse sold the house in 1851,¹⁵ but continued to live here until

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 170, p. 178 [354].

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108696008/nathan-blanchard>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 217, p. 393 and 509, p. 556.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 600, p. 336 and Book 1380, p. 361.

⁵ Findagrave.com Memorial #219730125. Accessed Nov. 10, 2022.

⁶ Findagrave.com Memorial #219730115. Accessed Nov. 10, 2022.

⁷ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1593, p. 48 and Book 4150, p. 240.

⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 184, p. 261 and Book 212, p. 527.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/102209175/lois-p-crane>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

¹⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 235, p. 211.

¹¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 235, p. 211 and Book 1596, p. 85.

¹² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2450, p. 92 and Book 2494, p. 501.

¹³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 187, p. 433.

¹⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 187, p. 616.

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the late 1860s, at which time he and his wife moved to New Hampshire. Irish immigrant James Feeney and his wife, Ann, purchased the house in 1873; the house remained in the family until 1927.¹⁶

The house at 34 East High Street (ca. 1851-1855, AVO.111), was likely constructed for Jonathan G. and Abigail Blanchard. Boot and shoe manufacturer Jonathan Granville Blanchard (1821-1888)¹⁷ married Abigail Littlefield (1823-1901),¹⁸ daughter of prominent Stoughton shoe manufacturer Charles Littlefield, in 1845. Jonathan Blanchard purchased this lot of land in 1851¹⁹ and had a house constructed among several other Blanchard family residences located near the intersection of Main Street and East High Street. The family, which included the couple, their infant child, and an Irish immigrant servant, was living in this house at the time of the 1855 census. The couple lived here until 1859, when they sold the house to boot manufacturer Frederick H. Littlefield and his wife, Julia Wall Littlefield.²⁰

Physician Silas S. Gifford purchased 34 East High Street in 1868 and lived here for the remainder of his life.²¹ Dr. Silas Swift Gifford (1823-1902)²² married Maria Chamberlain (1832-1872)²³ in 1854 and lived here with their family. Dr. Gifford also served Avon as library trustee and as a long-serving member of the school committee.²⁴ Dr. Gifford was described as “a tireless friend of education and a man who spent a lifetime working for the good of his community... He had begun his working days as an officer aboard a vessel involved in the coastal trade. Later, he took a job as a school teacher...”²⁵ Gifford was graduated from Castleton Medical College in Castleton, Vermont in the spring of 1852²⁶ and established his medical practice in East Stoughton soon thereafter. George and Sadie Davis owned 34 East High Street from 1903 until 1945.²⁷ George Davis worked as a foreman and as an inspector in a shoe factory. In his retirement, George Davis operated a farm.

The first residents of 26 East High Street (ca. 1873, AVO.110) were Emily and Thomas Tripp, who purchased the house in 1875.²⁸ Emily W. Littlefield (1827-1905) married Thomas Tripp (1825-1904) in 1870. Thomas Tripp appears as an “inventor” in city directories and census records. In the 1900 census, his occupation is listed as “capitalist.” Thomas Tripp also invested in real estate and owned property on Robbins Street at one point in time. Emily Littlefield Tripp was a member of the prominent Littlefield shoe manufacturing firm in Stoughton. The property was sold out of the family in 1906.²⁹ The property has had a number of non-resident owners since 1917 and is presently in use as a three-family house.

The Michael and Ellen Walsh House, 52 East High Street (ca. 1877, AVO.115), was likely constructed soon after Michael Walsh purchased this lot of land.³⁰ Civil War veteran Michael Walsh (1838-1919)³¹ and his wife, Ellen Murphy Walsh

¹⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 200, p. 1383.

¹⁶ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 438-188 [375] and Book 1760, p. 384.

¹⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71977413/jonathan-granville-blanchard>. Accessed Dec. 27, 2022.

¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71977391/abigail-howard-blanchard>. Accessed Dec. 27, 2022.

¹⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 204, p. 214.

²⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 275, p. 510.

²¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 363, p. 119 [236].

²² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86333544/silas-s-gifford>. Accessed Dec. 27, 2022.

²³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86333624/maria-gifford>. Accessed Dec. 27, 2022.

²⁴ 1888-1963 75th Diamond Jubilee.

²⁵ Hanna 29.

²⁶ Waite: 211.

²⁷ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 959, p. 481 and Book 2535, p. 245.

²⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 465, p. 423.

²⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1035, p. 525.

³⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 495, p. 314.

³¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161652581/michael-j-walsh>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

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(1839-1924)³² were married circa 1868 and lived here with their family. Michael Walsh worked as an edge trimmer in a shoe factory. Several of their children and their families lived here as well: Jennie F. Walsh, Nellie Walsh Megley and Fred Walsh, who worked as a newspaper reporter. The Walsh family sold the house in 1951.³³

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³² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161652577/ellen-walsh>. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

³³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 3050, p. 573.

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AREA DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #		Street Address	Construction Date	Style	Acreage
D6/ 7/ 7/ /	AVO.109	Dr. Joseph B. and Elizabeth Walker House	20 East High St.	Ca. 1847	Greek Revival / Italianate	0.35
D6/ 7/ 8/ /	AVO.110	Emily and Thomas Tripp House	26 East High St.	Ca. 1873	Italianate	0.50
D6/ 7/ 9/ /	AVO.111	Jonathan G. and Julia Blanchard House	34 East High St.	Ca. 1851-1855	Italianate	0.51
D6/ 5/ 23/ /	AVO.112	Sherman and Adeline Nourse House	41 East High St.	Ca. 1849	No Style	0.17
D6/ 7/ 10/ /	AVO.113	Crane-Beals House	44 East High St.	Ca. 1848-1850	Italianate	0.29
D6/ 7/ 11/ /	AVO.114	Henry W. and Juletta Beals House	46 East High St.	Ca. 1880-1888	No Style	0.22
D6/ 7/ 12/ /	AVO.115	Michael and Ellen Walsh House	52 East High St.	Ca. 1877	No Style	0.46

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking north toward 20 East High Street.



View looking east toward 20 East High Street.



View looking northeast toward carriage house at 20 East High Street.



View looking northeast toward 26 East High Street.

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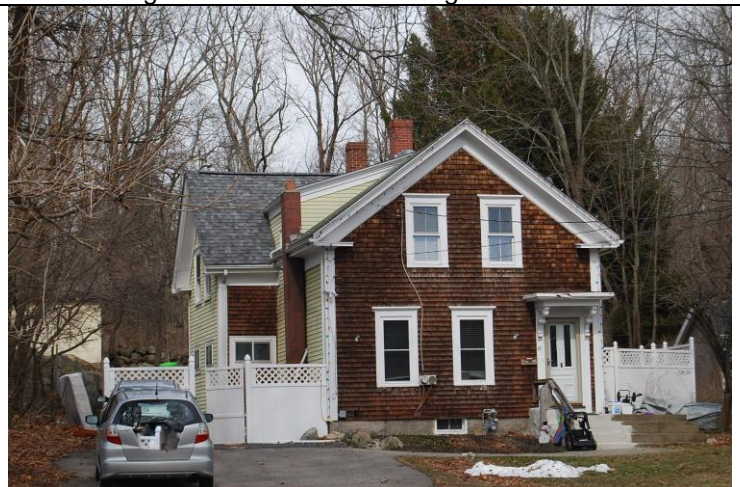
View looking northeast toward 34 East High Street.



View looking north toward 34 East High Street.



View looking southeast toward 41 East High Street.



View looking north toward 44 East High Street,



View looking north toward 46 East High Street.



View looking northeast toward 52 East High Street.

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TOWN

NAME OF AREA

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