

FORM A - AREA

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

See Data Sheet

Blue Hills

AVO.
E

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Sheet

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

Photograph



View looking east. Left to right: 113, 105, 97, and 89 West High Street.

Town/City: Avon

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: West High Street Area

Present Use: Single Family Dwellings; Multiple Family Dwellings

Construction Dates or Period: ca. 1851- ca. 1877

Overall Condition: Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Vinyl siding;
Replacement vinyl sash (late 20th or early 21st C)

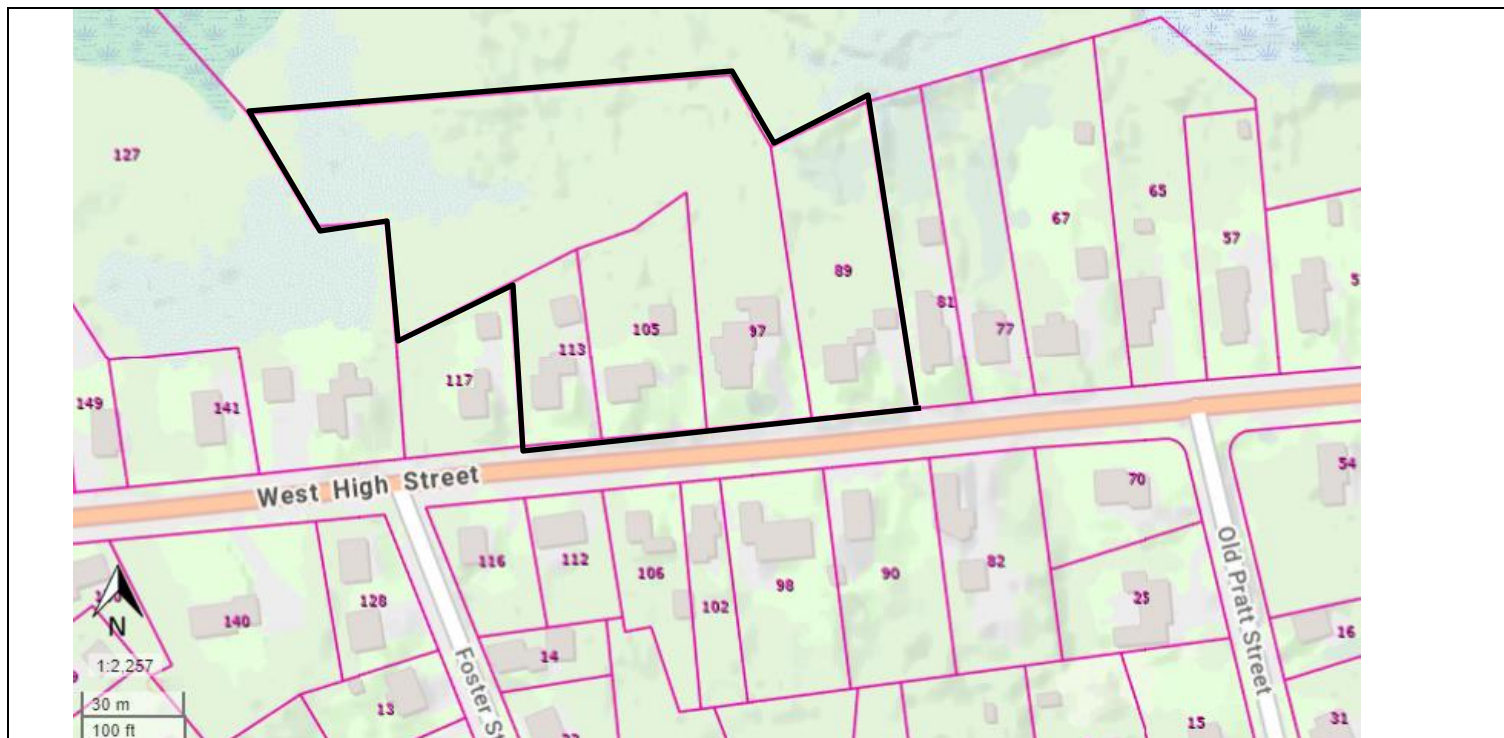
Acreage: 3.4 acres

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

WEST 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 West High Street Area is a group of four frame houses located on level lots covered with lawn. The houses are oriented to the south, toward the street, with moderate setbacks. Cut stone walls line the sidewalks in front of 105 and 113 West High Street. Asphalt-paved driveways lead past the houses' east elevations to parking areas or garages located northeast of the houses. The 1½-story, front-gabled houses rest on cut stone foundations and rise to asphalt-shingled roofs. The two-over-three-bay façades contain a side-hall plan entrance in the west bay. Small, perpendicular ells are attached to the northeast corner of each house.

The Greek Revival 89 West High Street (ca. 1851, AVO.82) and 113 West High Street (Ca.1855, AVO.85) are very similar in design and materials. Each is capped with a front-gabled roof with deep eaves and an interior brick chimney on the east roof slope. 113 West High Street has been expanded with a shed dormer on the west elevation and a cross-gable on the east elevation. The houses are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with a wide frieze and gable-end cornice returns. 89 West High Street retains its corner pilasters. 89 West High Street has a late-20th-century replacement door; 113 West High Street has a Colonial Revival paneled wood door. The houses are two bays deep on the west elevation and four bays deep on the east elevation. Windows throughout the house are 1/1 sash with wide, flat surrounds and shallow pointed-arch crowns; the ell at 89 East High Street does not have the crowns. A hipped-roof porch supported by pairs of attenuated Doric posts wraps around the façade and east elevation of 89 West High Street. The 113 West High Street façade features an Italianate shelter supported by large, decorative wood brackets. A small, 1-story perpendicular ell with deep eaves and gable-end cornice returns similar to those on the main house is attached to the northeast corner of each house. The 89 West High Street ell, which rests on a banked foundation, is four bays wide and one bay deep. An off-center entrance is located on the south elevation. A parged brick chimney is located atop the roof ridge. The exposed east basement level contains a pedestrian entrance with a metal storm door. The 113 West High Street ell is three bays wide with a center entrance and one bay deep. One bay contains a casement window. The east elevation contains a sash window at the first story and a fixed-light, square window tucked into the gable peak.

A frame carriage house (ca. 1855, AVO.135) is located near the northeast corner of 113 West High Street. The front-gabled building is covered with clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and gable-end cornice returns. The building's façade contains a banked vehicle entrance with an overhead wood door (mid-20th century) in the east end and a paneled wood pedestrian door. A vertical-board hay loft door is located above the vehicle entrance. A single window is located in the gable peak and in the east elevation.

97 West Main Street (ca. 1877, AVO.83) is capped with a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and an interior brick chimney on the west roof slope. A cross-gabled projection is attached to the north end of the west elevation. The house is clad with vinyl siding and trimmed with a wide frieze and gable-end cornice returns. The house is four bays deep on the east elevation with a cross-gable on the east roof slope. The entrance features an Italianate shelter supported by decorative wood brackets. A bay window containing slender, paired windows is located on the façade and on the east elevation below the cross-gable. A series of lateral and perpendicular 1-story ells extend from the rear of the house.

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The L-plan Gothic Revival 105 West High Street (ca. 1852, AVO.84) consists of a front-gabled main block and a 2-story perpendicular ell. The roof has deep eaves and interior brick chimneys on the east roof slope of the main block and the east end of the ell's roof ridge. Steeply-pitched gable wall dormers are located on the elevations visible from the street: two on the main block west elevation; one on the main block east elevation; and two on the ell's south elevation. The dormers and gable peaks feature curvilinear bargeboards. Four-over-one, gothic-arch wood sash windows are located in the dormers; windows throughout the rest of the house are 1/1 vinyl sash replacements. The façade entrance features an Italianate shelter supported by decorative wood brackets with pendant details. A porch with a concrete base and supported by a square-section wood column is located at the intersection of the main block and ell. The house is clad with vinyl siding. A garage (ca. 1915) capped with a pyramidal roof is located northeast of the house. A vehicle opening fills the south elevation.

The buildings represent a locally-popular front-gabled, 1½-story form common during the mid-19th century. 89 and 113 West High Street are the best preserved in the group and retain their Greek Revival origins. While 105 West High Street retains its locally-rare Gothic Revival dormers, pointed-arch windows, and bargeboard, the building's integrity has been lessened due to the application of vinyl siding and replacement 1/1 sash windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

High Street, later clarified as 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 West High Street near present-day Goeres Square in the 1840s. Many of these new houses were constructed for family members of the prominent Tucker and Littlefield shoe manufacturing firms.

89 West High Street (ca. 1851, AVO.82) was likely constructed circa 1851, the year in which Richmond Mayhew purchased this lot of land.¹ Richmond Mayhew (1818–1887) and his wife, Hannah Thayer Mayhew (1828-1862) were married in 1851 and lived here with their family. Richmond Mayhew worked in a boot factory. In 1884, Richmond Mayhew sold the house to his son-in-law, Patrick Sheehan, Jr.² Bootmaker Patrick Sheehan (ca. 1848 – 1898) married Emma Mayhew (1854-1909) in 1872. In 1899, George H. Harding purchased the house from widow Emma Mayhew Sheehan.³ George H. Harding worked as a railroad expressman and as a stable keeper, and, it appears, as a landlord. Census records during the early 20th century placed the Harding family on West Main Street. The Sanderson family owned the property from 1910 until 1941.⁴

The Oramel and Fanny Scofield House, 105 West High Street (ca. 1852, AVO.84), was likely constructed circa 1852, the year in which carpenter Oramel Scofield purchased this lot of land.⁵ Oramel Scofield (1818-1901) married Fanny Gates (1817-1899) in 1840 in Vermont. In 1861, Oramel Scofield was awarded a patent for "an improvement in adjustable weather strips" for doors.⁶ Oramel Scofield enlisted in the Massachusetts 40th Infantry in 1861. He was wounded at Drewry's Bluff, Virginia in 1864 and discharged the following year with the rank of Sergeant.⁷ Upon his return to Stoughton, Scofield sold the house.⁸ In 1866, Stoughton native Ruth A. Simmons Sisk (1837-1920)⁹ purchased the

¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 206, p. 285.

² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 559, p. 315.

³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 857, p. 539.

⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2361, p. 111.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1852. 209, p. 154.

⁶ "Recent Patents," *Springfield Republican*, 5 June 1861. Also Patent #US32436A (<https://patents.google.com/patent/US32436A/en?q=US32436A>).

⁷ *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War*, Vol. 4: 133.

⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 335, p. 385.

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property¹⁰ and likely expanded the ell and added the Gothic Revival Style dormers and bargeboard detailing. Ruth's sister, Hannah Simmons Spear, lived next door at 113 West Main Street (AVO.85). In 1862, Ruth Simmons married Michael Sisk (1840-1909),¹¹ who was employed as superintendent of Littlefield's shoe factory in town. In 1916, Ruth Sisk sold the house to her daughter, Nellie Sisk Crane (1869-1927),¹² and her husband, Everett Clinton Crane (1872-1943),¹³ who had married the year before.¹⁴ Everett Crane owned a grocery store. The Sisk-Crane family owned the house until 1961.¹⁵

113 West High Street (Ca.1855, AVO.85) was likely constructed around the time that Elijah Chapin Hall (1830-1917)¹⁶ and his wife, Lois J. Hall (1832-1880),¹⁷ were married in 1855. William and Harriet Thayer, with whom the couple were living, sold a portion of their land to the Halls in 1854.¹⁸ Elijah C. Hall worked in a boot and shoe factory. In 1878, Elijah C. Hall sold the house to Hannah Spear.¹⁹ Stoughton native Hannah Simmons Spear married Justus Isaac Spear in 1861. Justus Spear worked in a boot and shoe factory. Hannah Spear's sister, Ruth Simmons Sisk, lived next door at 105 West Main Street (AVO.84). In 1906 Hannah Spear sold the house to her daughter, Fanny.²⁰ Fanny Spear married William Baker Tallman, a cutter in shoe factory, in 1908. In 1913, James H. Sullivan purchased the house from the Spear family.²¹ James Sullivan worked as a cutter in a shoe factory. The Sullivan family owned the house until 1990.²²

The Eugene and Anna Drew House, 97 West Main Street (ca. 1877, AVO.83), was likely constructed circa 1877, the year in which Eugene Drew purchased this lot of land.²³ East Stoughton native Eugene Drew (1845-1903) married Anna K (Hawes) Drew (1843-1928) in 1879. "At the age of nineteen [Eugene Drew] began to work for wages in a shoe factory. In time he acquired a good knowledge of the business... For several years he was foreman of the stitching room in the factory of Charles Smith; and for three years he was associated with his father in the manufacture of boots, under the firm name of John Drew & Son. He relinquished manufacturing to enter the grocery business. After conducting stores in East Stoughton and Brockton for a number of years, he retired from active business for a time" before opening another grocery store in Avon in 1895.²⁴ Walter S. LaFavour purchased the house from widow Anna K. Drew in 1920 and owned it until 1943.²⁵ Walter S. LaFavour worked as a salesman for a shoe last factory.

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⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/172012538/ruth-anne-sisk>. Accessed Dec. 29, 2022.

¹⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 348, p. 157.

¹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/76872736/michael-sisk>. Accessed Dec. 29, 2022.

¹² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/172013156/nellie-pearl-crane>. Accessed Dec. 29, 2022.

¹³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/172013362/everett-clinton-crane>. Accessed Dec. 29, 2022.

¹⁴ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1358, p. 547.

¹⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 3913, p. 577.

¹⁶ Findagrave.com Memorial #102195368. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

¹⁷ Findagrave.com Memorial #102195395. Accessed Dec. 23, 2022.

¹⁸ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 225, p. 148.

¹⁹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 499, p. 218.

²⁰ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1041, p. 414.

²¹ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1265, p. 392.

²² Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 4617, p. 330.

²³ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 487, p. 229.

²⁴ Biographical Review: 381-382.

²⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 1454, p. 138 and Book 2452-163 and 164.

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AREA DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #		Street Address	Construction Date	Style	Acreage
C6/ 1/ 24/ /	AVO.82	Richmond and Hannah Mayhew House Garage	89 West High St.	Ca. 1851 Ca. 1920	Greek Revival No Style	0.61
C6/ 1/ 23/ /	AVO.83	Eugene and Anna Drew House	97 West High St.	Ca. 1877	No Style	2.0
C6/ 1/ 22/ /	AVO.84	Oramel and Fanny Scofield House Garage	105 West High St.	Ca. 1852 Ca. 1915	Gothic Revival No Style	0.52
C6/ 1/ 21/ /	AVO.85	Elijah and Lois Hall House	113 West High St.	Ca. 1855	Greek Revival	0.27
	AVO.135	Carriage House		Ca. 1855	No Style	

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



89 West High Street. View looking northwest.



113 West High Street. View looking northwest.



89 West High Street. View looking northwest.



113 West High Street. View looking northwest.

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97 West High Street. View looking



105 West High Street. View looking northwest.



105 West High Street. View looking northeast.