

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

|                                |                                            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inventory No:</b>           | MLT.85                                     |
| <b>Historic Name:</b>          | Thayer, Bezer House                        |
| <b>Common Name:</b>            |                                            |
| <b>Address:</b>                | 270 Hillside St                            |
| <b>City/Town:</b>              | Milton                                     |
| <b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>   | Scott's Woods                              |
| <b>Local No:</b>               |                                            |
| <b>Year Constructed:</b>       | C 1798                                     |
| <b>Architect(s):</b>           |                                            |
| <b>Architectural Style(s):</b> | Federal                                    |
| <b>Use(s):</b>                 | Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House |
| <b>Significance:</b>           | Agriculture; Architecture                  |
| <b>Area(s):</b>                | MLT.C: Scott's Woods Historic District     |
| <b>Designation(s):</b>         | Nat'l Register District (11/5/1992)        |



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

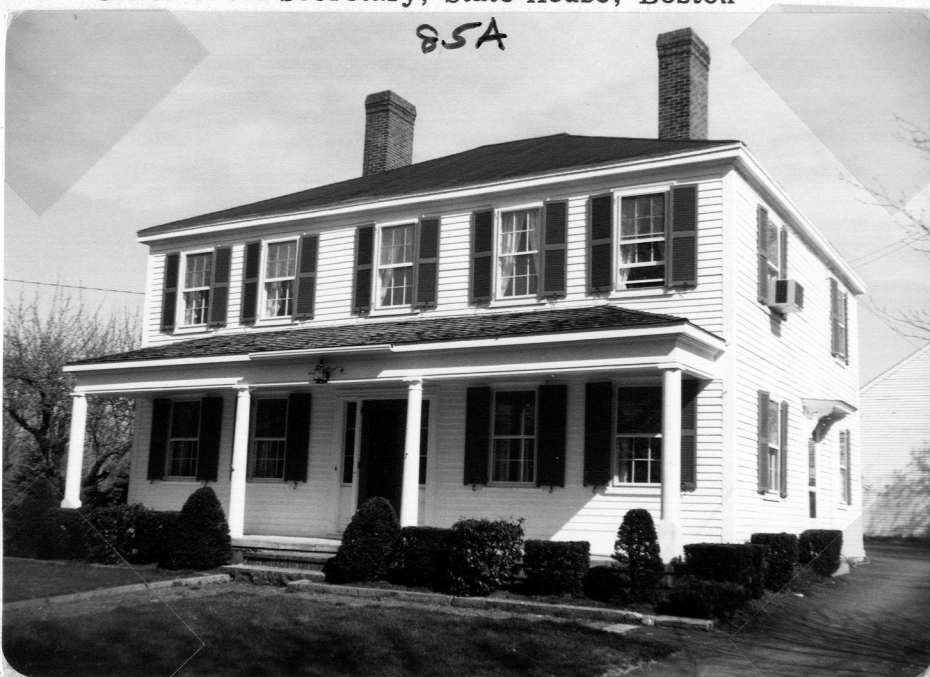
Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 10:18 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

was Blue Hill  
P.L. Scott's Woods  
S.A.

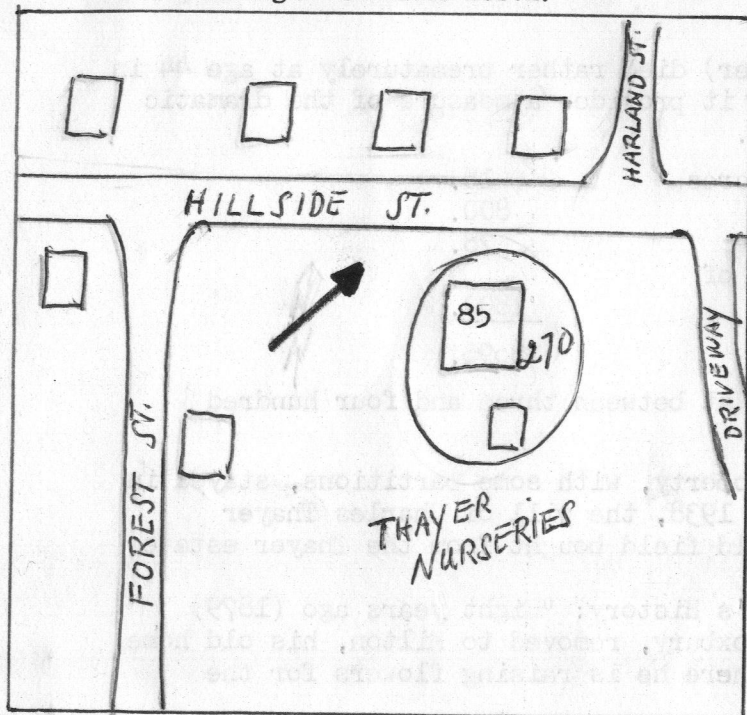
|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| In Area no.<br><u>1153</u> | Form no.<br><u>85</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|



85A

Milton  
270 Hillside St.  
The Bezer Thayer House  
Dwelling House, plant and tree nurseries.  
Robert Oldfield  
1790-98  
Hamilton's History of Milton.  
Milton town records.  
Hip roof Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Un known  
Exterior wall fabric clapboard  
Outbuildings (describe) Barn and corn-crib  
Other features  
See architectural review

Altered Extensively Date 19th & 20th cens.  
Moved Date

5. Lot size:  
One acre or less Over one acre 4.75 acre  
Approximate frontage 600 ft.  
Approximate distance of building from street 50 ft.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

6. Recorded by William J. Loughran  
Organization Milton Historical Commission  
Date May 5, 1978

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) Probably Bezer Thayer

Original use Dwelling House and farm

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Horticulture and plant nursery

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |          |                            |          |                         |  |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|--|
| Aboriginal            |          | Conservation               | <u>x</u> | Recreation              |  |
| Agricultural          | <u>x</u> | Education                  |          | Religion                |  |
| Architectural         | <u>x</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement |          | Science/<br>invention   |  |
| The Arts              |          | Industry                   |          | Social/<br>humanitarian |  |
| Commerce              | <u>x</u> | Military                   |          | Transportation          |  |
| Communication         |          | Political                  |          |                         |  |
| Community development |          |                            |          |                         |  |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The house and land at 270 Hillside St., site of the home of Robert Oldfield and his Thayer Nurseries, was probably built and first occupied by Bezer Thayer, an independent farmer, born in Braintree, 1768. Thayer likely moved to Milton in the 1790's, settled in the Scott's Woods area along Hillside St. and took up farming. He dabbled in real estate, as his name appears in a few real estate transactions in other parts of the town.

Bezer (probably a contraction of Ebenezer) died rather prematurely at age 44 in March, 1812. His will is interesting in that it provides a measure of the dramatic rise in property values between then and now.

|                                               |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| House lot, 11 3/4 acres                       | \$418.       |
| House                                         | 800.         |
| Barn                                          | 78.          |
| 45 acres north side of<br>road (Hillside St.) | <u>1800.</u> |
| Whole sum                                     | \$3096.      |

The same property might be valued today at between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

Following Bezer Thayer's death, the property, with some partitions, stayed in the Thayer family to recent times. In Oct., 1938, the will of Charles Thayer transferred it to a Thayer estate. Robert Oldfield bought from the Thayer estate in Oct., 1963.

The following is a sidelight from Teele's History: "Eight years ago (1879) Henry F. Thayer, long a skilful florist in Roxbury, removed to Milton, his old home, and engaged in floriculture on Hillside St. where he is raising flowers for the market with great success."

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Norfolk will probate  
Hamilton's History of Milton (1956)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

MLT.85

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Community:<br>MILTON              | Form No:<br>85 |
| Property Name: Bezer Thayer House |                |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

- (9) Robert Oldfield, on the same land, is currently raising plants, flowers and seedlings, with what success we will permit the gentleman, himself, to say.

Mr. Oldfield is chairman of the Milton Conservation Commission.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

The Beza (Bezer) Thayer House, built before 1798, is typical of the Federal Style.

The main house, comprised of eight rooms (two rooms deep) is organized around a central hallway and 2 internal symmetrically placed fireplaces. The house is illustrative of the Federal Style concerns of symmetry and the use of graceful curved forms. The stairway, located in the central hall, ascends in an elliptical form. The front entrance is framed by side lights and an elliptical fanlight. The front porch (probably a later addition and at one time extending to 2 sides of the house) is supported by slender Doric columns. The massing of the original portion of the house is rather geometric with a low pitched hip roof.

An ell has been added to the rear of the house.

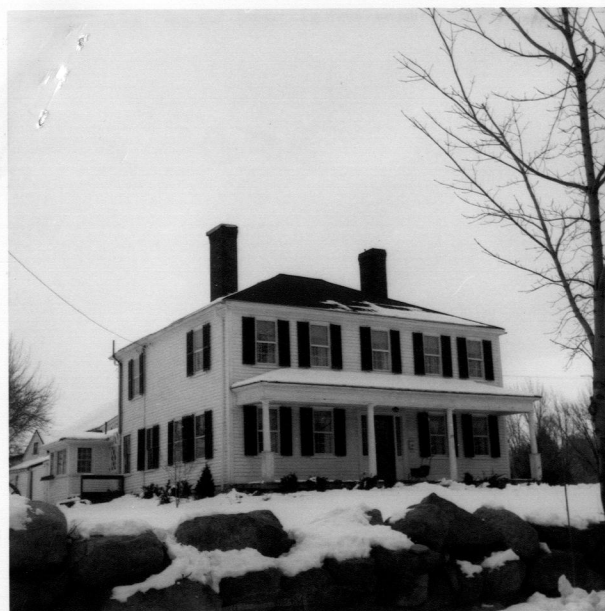
Also on the property are a small 'corn crib' and a large barn.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen FitzGerald

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Staple to Inventory form at bottom