

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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

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FORM B - BUILDING

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

USGS Blue Hill
Pl. Scott's Woods

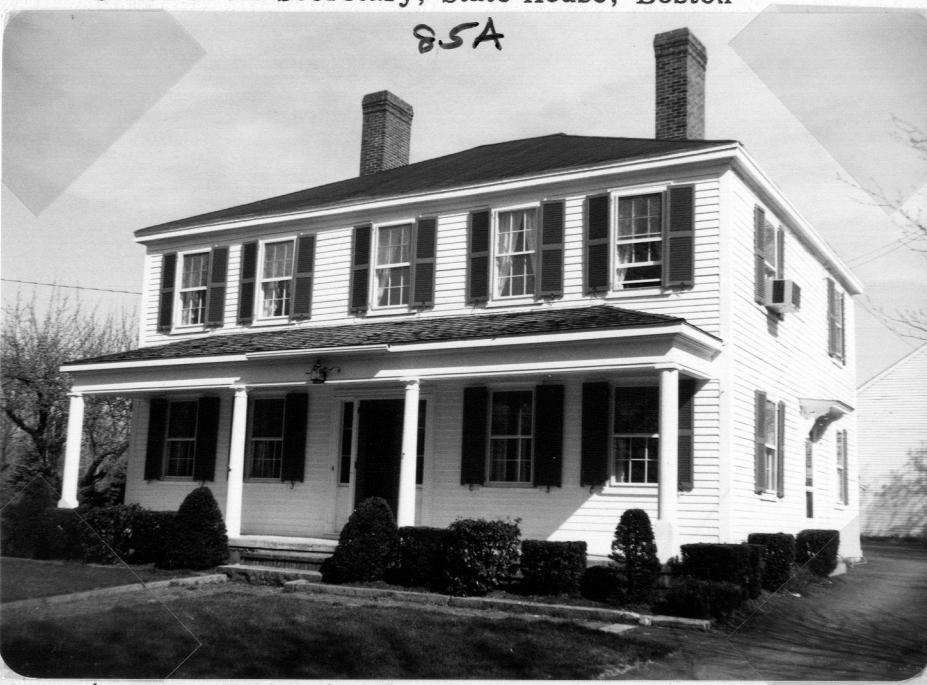
In Area no.

Form no.

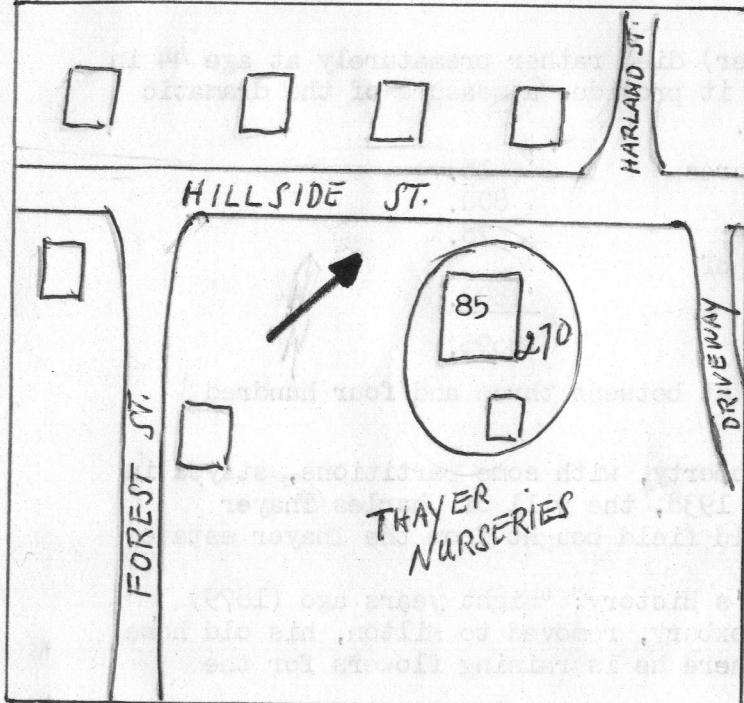
125
MHC

85

85A



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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

in _____ Milton

MLT.85

ress _____ 270 Hillside St.

ne _____ The Bezer Thayer House

sent use _____ Dwelling House, plant and
tree nurseries.

sent owner _____ Robert Oldfield

cription:

Year _____ 1790-98

ource _____ Hamilton's History of Milton.

Milton town records.

Style _____ Hip roof Federal

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.

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/ settlement		Science/ invention	
The Arts				Social/	
Commerce	<u>x</u>	Industry		humanitarian	
Communication		Military			
Community development		Political		Transportation	

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 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 Old field 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:	Form No:
MILTON	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 staircase, 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.

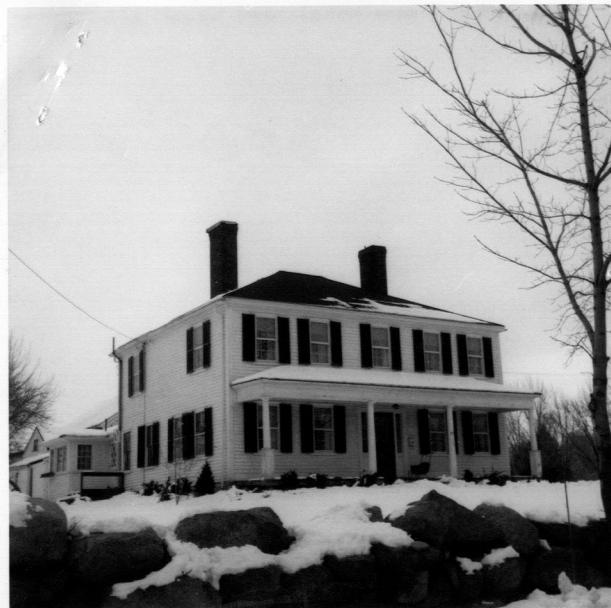
Also on the property are a small 'corn crib' and a large barn.

Respectfully submitted

el/

Kathleen Fitzgerald

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Staple to Inventory form at bottom