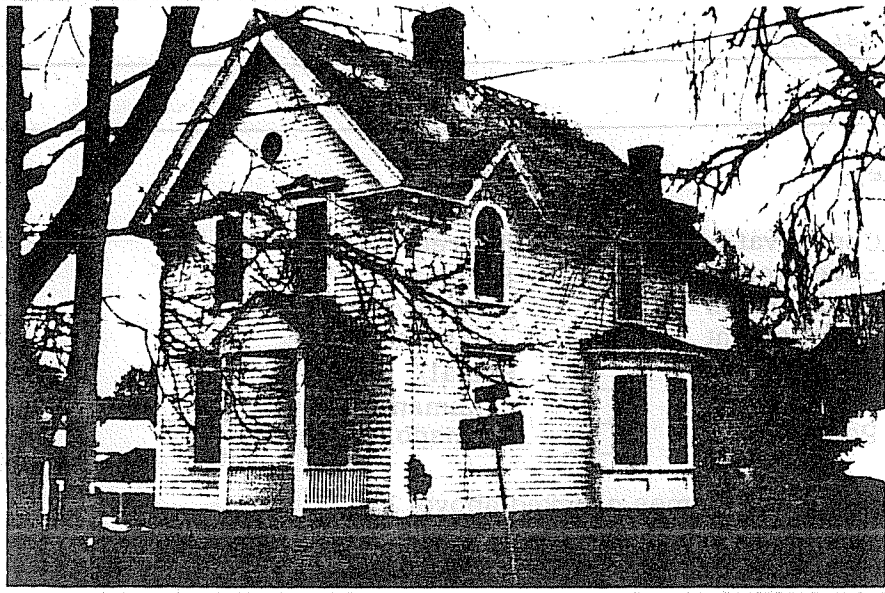


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FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B-73



n Northampton

ress 38 Summer St.

e H. Thayer House

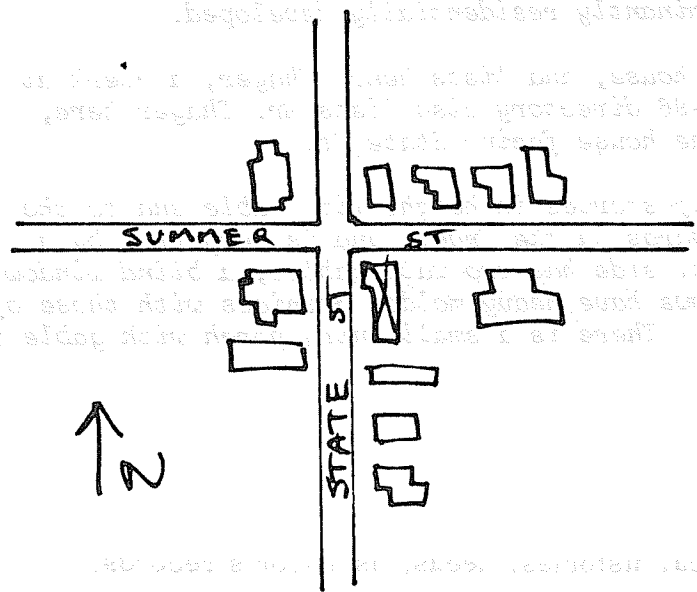
sent use residence

sent owner Terrance and Aliner Level

ription: 1873-84

ource Atlases

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



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) small store in rear

Other features _____

Altered entrance porch Date early 20th c.

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date May 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Henry Thayer

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This lot was originally part of the Henry Bowers estate, one of Northampton's finest houses, designed by Ithiel Towne and built in 1827. The house was located on Prospect St. and the grounds extended easterly to King St. At about the same time the New Haven-Northampton canal was constructed. After crossing Main St., near the junction of Elm and Green Sts., the canal ran north in a straight line to the intersection of King St. and Water St. (now Damon Rd.) and then along Slough Brook to the Connecticut River. The canal opened in 1835 but the simultaneous development of railroads never allowed it to be profitable and it was closed in 1847. Over the next twenty-five years the canal was filled in and by 1873 State St. was complete from Main St. northerly to Church St. This was predominantly residentially developed.

The 1884 atlas shows this house, and lists Henry Thayer, a clerk at a Main St. grocery, as the owner. The 1895-96 directory also lists Mr. Thayer here, with his own grocery store in the rear of the house facing State St.

The house is two-and-a-half stories in height with gable end to the street. The raking cornice has plain bargeboards in the front, and is supported by a bracketed frieze on the sides. The State St. side has two wall gables, a blind window frame and a one-story bay window. The windows have heavy molded cornices with those of the second floor on the facade being pedimented. There is a small entry porch with gable roof, plain posts and balustrade.

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

- 1831 Town Map.
- 1854 and 1860 County Maps.
- 1873, 1884, 1895 Atlases.
- Northampton Directory: 1875-76, 1885-86, 1895-96.