

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 13 1975

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Hillside

AND/OR COMMON
same**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER
230 Summer StreetCITY, TOWN
Plymouth

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12thSTATE
MassachusettsCODE
025COUNTY
PlymouthCODE
023**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
— STRUCTURE
— SITE
— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS
— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
— UNOCCUPIED
— WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
— YES: UNRESTRICTED
— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE — MUSEUM
— COMMERCIAL — PARK
— EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— ENTERTAINMENT — RELIGIOUS
— GOVERNMENT — SCIENTIFIC
— INDUSTRIAL — TRANSPORTATION
— MILITARY — OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME
Christina Watson Bowler and Robert B. BowlerSTREET & NUMBER
230 Summer Street, P.O. Box 414CITY, TOWN
Plymouth

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts 02360**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Russell Street

CITY, TOWN

Plymouth

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hillside lies at the base of a natural bowl land formation, with trees, planted in the last half of the nineteenth century, growing at the edge of the large lawn which surrounds the house. The property originally encompassed approximately eighty acres, as shown in the map surveyed by Henry David Thoreau in 1854. Extensive plantings, including many native and foreign trees, covered these acres. Now only ten acres remain, but they retain their rural and pastoral aspect, and most of the trees planted as part of the Old Colony Nurseries are extant.

Hillside was designed in 1845 by the amateur architect Reverend Samuel Longfellow, brother of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and built the same year by Benjamin Marston Watson, famed horticulturalist and friend of the Concord Transcendentalists. The Gothic Cottage, which faces south, is reminiscent of the styles found in Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. The facade has a steeply pitched cross gable covering a central pavilion which has a Tudor arched opening on each of its three sides. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ story building, covered with clapboards, has an asphalt shingled ridge roof. A $1\frac{1}{2}$ story ridge roof ell extends from the western half of the northern elevation of the house, and has a dormer on its western elevation. A 2 story hip roof addition, built in the 1890's, is attached to the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story ell, and lies directly north of the eastern half of the main part of the house.

The fenestration, as with many Gothic Cottages, is irregular. The first floor windows of the whole house are topped by label molding, as is the center opening in the entrance pavilion. The molding extending down the sides of the windows are now covered by shutters, a recent addition to the house. The second story windows of the main block and the ell have plain lintels; the second story windows of the north elevation of the hip roof addition repeat the label moldings of the first floor. A bay window, original to the house, extends from the east elevation of the first floor of the main block.

The grounds around Hillside are the remains of the once extensive Old Colony Nurseries. These gardens contained plants of all kinds from all over the world, including 58 varieties of trees, and numerous vegetables and fruits, mass produced for the Boston market. Remnants of these plantings still exist on the land remaining from this extensive nursery.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☒ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☒ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☒ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☒ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1845	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Rev. Samuel Longfellow
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hillside is significant not only for its association with the internationally famous Old Colony Nurseries, but also for the close relationship between the Watsons, the original owners of the house, and the many Concord Transcendentalists who stayed there.

Benjamin Marston Watson, when he graduated from Harvard in 1839, decided to return to Plymouth to take care of his mother's garden, instead of following one of the more conventional occupations. According to Edward Everett Hale, he established "such a nursery garden as New England had never known until that time." This nursery was a tremendous success, acquiring a national and international reputation. Watson was responsible for introducing the Japanese Honeysuckle to the United States and encouraged its use throughout the country. He anticipated much of the work later to be undertaken at the Fenway and the arboretum in Boston by planting at Hillside Asclethra, Black Alder, Viburnum Cassinoides, Rhodora, and Rhododendrum Maximum. He also planted and cultivated Yellow and Canoe Birches. Watson was greatly interested in mass production of garden vegetables for the Boston market and for a while attempted to grow melons, turnips, celery and cabbages. He also grew peaches on a large scale and at one time had three thousand peach trees planted. He acted as a consultant to people with horticultural problems throughout New England and was greatly respected in his field.

Watson, besides being a successful horticulturalist, was interested in literature and philosophy. He and his wife, Mary Russell Watson, were close friends of the major Concord philosophers of the mid-nineteenth century, and of numerous other American philosophers of that time. Some of the people who were attracted to Hillside, for extended visits with the Watsons and for relaxation and enjoyment of the pastoral atmosphere, included Henry David Thoreau, A. Bronson Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing, Richard Henry Dana, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Edward Everett Hale, Wendell Phillips, Horace Greeley, J.P. Appleton and Louisa May Alcott. They came to Hillside to enjoy the gardens, the house and each others company. Many of the papers of these philosophers were first written here, and others given their first public hearing in the gardens or parlor. Hillside created an almost idyllic atmosphere for these great American thinkers and contributed to the formulation of their concept of the relationship between nature and philosophy.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

L.D. Geller, Between Concord and Plymouth: The Transcendentalists and the Watsons,
published by Thoreau Foundation and Pilgrim Society, 1973
Hillside Collection of Manuscripts, Pilgrim Society Library, Plymouth, MA
Journals of Henry David Thoreau
Letter of A.B. Alcott, Iowa University Press, 1969
Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, May 1898

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.44 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 360740 4645200
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Lawrence D. Geller

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

40 Beacon Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amadon

TITLE

Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/6/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/18/81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

SEP 16 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Hillside

Plymouth

State Mass.

Working Number 6.13.75.1085

TECHNICAL

Photos 5

Maps 2

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 6.16.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
8-21-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
L. Lovell
6-18-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
9-8-75

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
H. H. H.
9.12.75

KEEPER

SEP 16 1975

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 18 1975

Federal Register Entry 11-4-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



South facade

photo #1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 9/18/75

Title: Hillside

Loc. Plymouth Cty, MA

South facade



east elevation

photo #

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 9/18/75

Title: Hillside

Loc. Plymouth Cty, MA

East elevation



west elevation

photo #3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 9/18/75

Title: Hillside

Loc. Plymouth County, MA

West elevation



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 9/18/75

Title: Hillside

Loc. Plymouth Cty, MA
View of Marion
Watson's Old Colony
Nurseries & lands at
Hillside

photo #4

A View of B. MARSTON WATSON'S Old Colony
Nurseries and lands ~~at~~ at Hillside.

104

plan of Hillside surveyed by
H.D. Throan in 1854

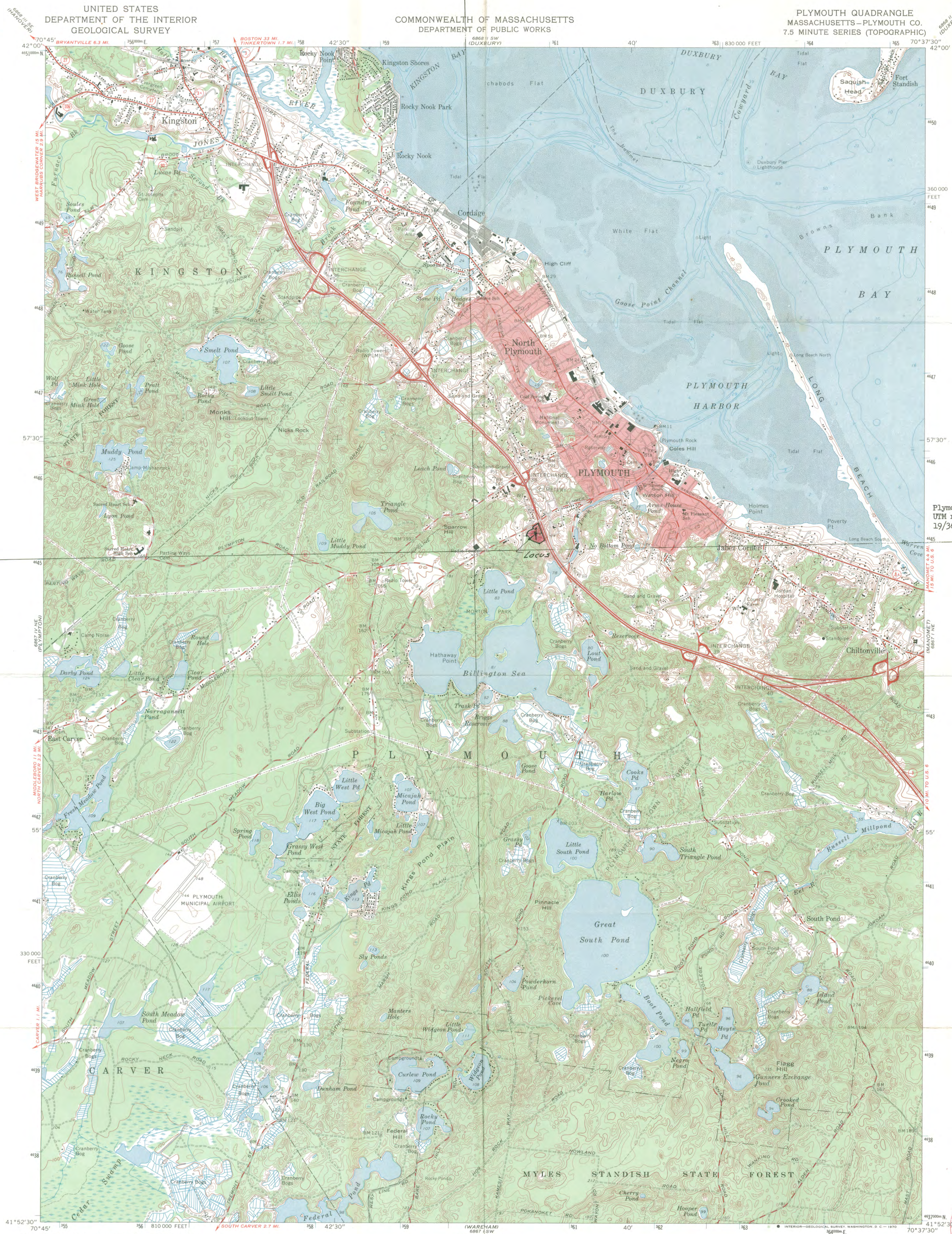
photo # 5

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

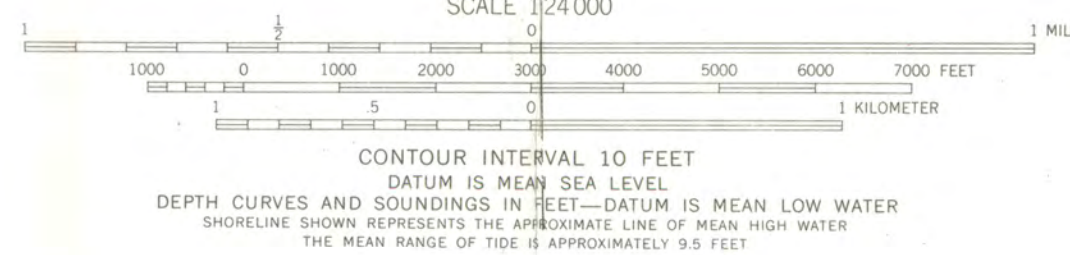
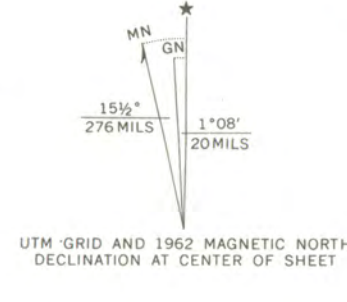
NPS Number 9/18/75

Title: Hillside

Loc. Plymouth County, MA
Plan of Hillside,
surveyed by H.D.
Throan in 1854

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEYCOMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKSPLYMOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)Plymouth, Hillside
UTM reference:
19/360740/4645200

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934. Revised 1962
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 245 (1960)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

HILLSIDE

PLYMOUTH, MASS.
N4152.5—W7037.5/7.5

1962

AMS 6867 I NW—SERIES V814



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 13 1975
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Hillside

AND/OR COMMON
Name

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Plymouth VICINITY OF COUNTY Plymouth STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

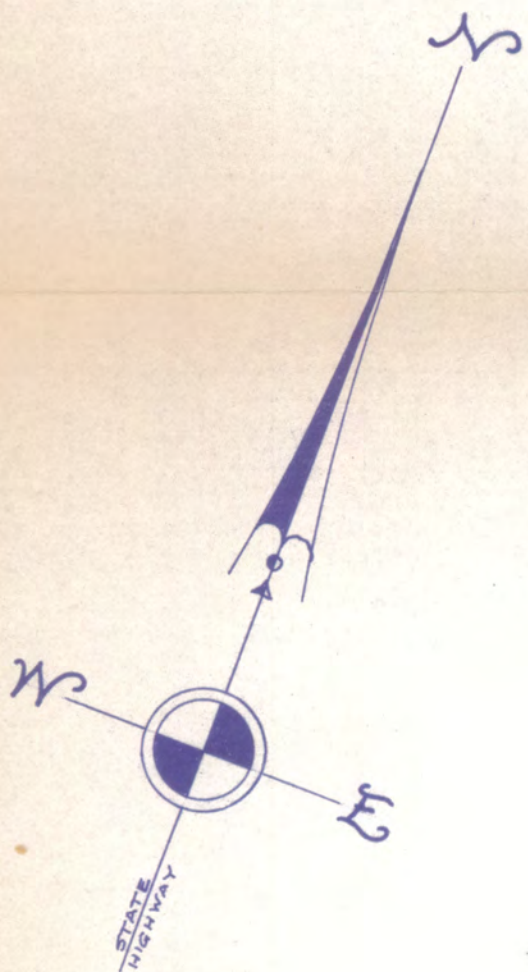
SOURCE U.S.G.S., Plymouth, Mass quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1962

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

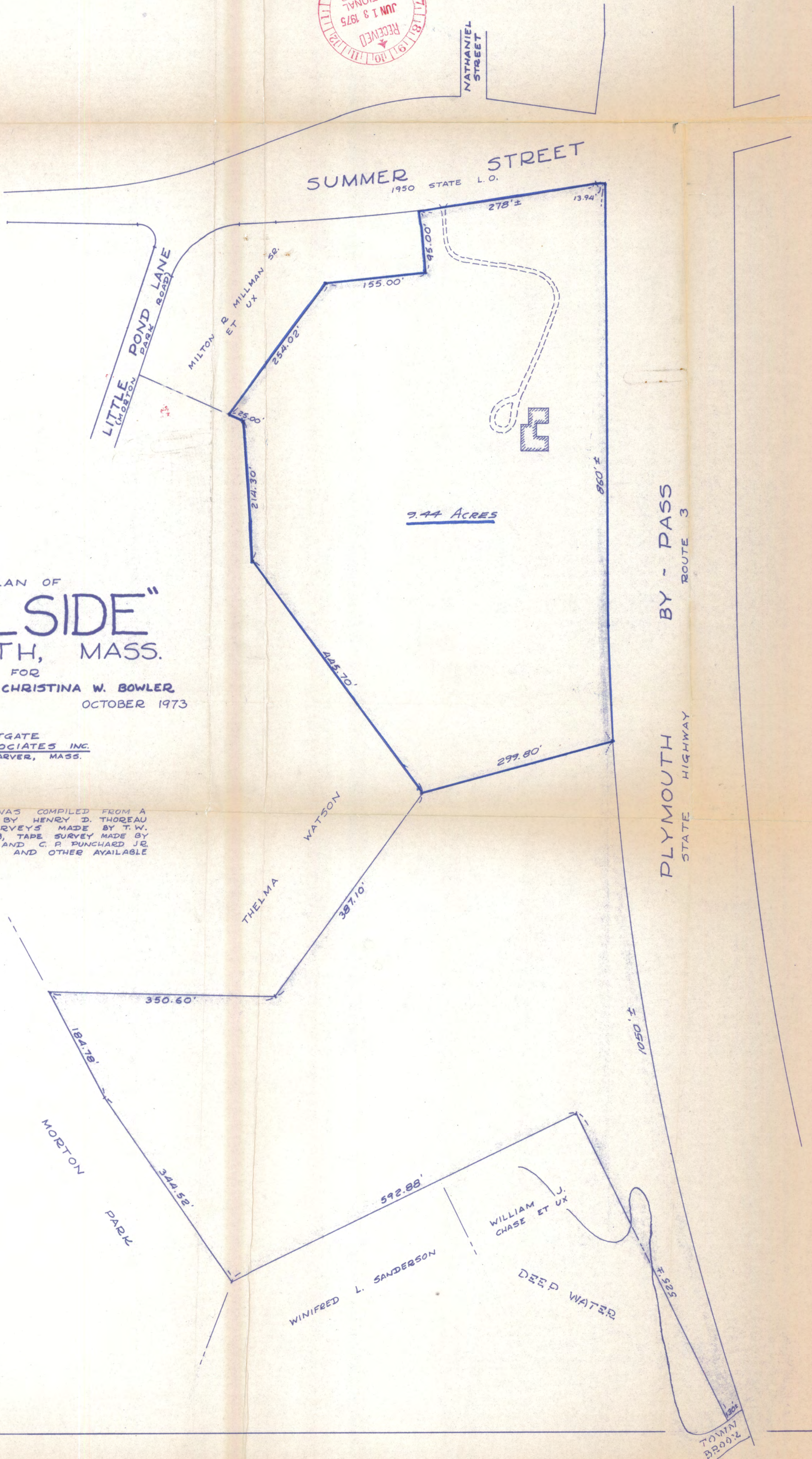


PLAN OF
"HILLSIDE"
PLYMOUTH, MASS.
FOR
ROBERT B. & CHRISTINA W. BOWLER
SCALE 1" = 100' OCTOBER 1973

WESTGATE
ASSOCIATES INC.
CARVER, MASS.

NOTE:

THIS PLAN WAS COMPILED FROM A
SURVEY MADE BY HENRY D. THOREAU
IN 1854, SURVEYS MADE BY T.W.
BAILEY IN 1908, TAPE SURVEY MADE BY
B. M. WATSON AND C. P. PUNCHARD JR.
IN APRIL 1911 AND OTHER AVAILABLE
INFORMATION.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP/8 1975

Name

Location

Hillside

Plymouth
Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooks
Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Anadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR

MMott/row

9/24/75



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Secretary of the Commonwealth

727-8470

10 June 1975



Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find two National Register nominations for the following properties:

1. Lexington, The Stone Building and the Follen Community Church
2. Plymouth, Hillside.

These properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:pjj
Enclosures

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/23/77
 Reviewer INITIALS: goss
 NR DOE Sept. 18, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Hillside

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 230 Summer Street

CITY, TOWN: Plymouth

STATE: Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 12th

COUNTY: Plymouth code 023

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
 EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
 ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, Not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

DEREGISTERED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated, UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated, ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then - private residence
 now - same

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, AGRICULTURE-3, ARCHITECTURE-4, ART, COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS, CONSERVATION, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, EXPLORATION, INDUSTRY, INVENTION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE-15, LAW/Gov't/politics, LITERATURE-17, MILITARY, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY-20, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER (SPECIFY), entertainment, health, recreation, settlement, socio/cultural, urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: GOTHIC REVIVAL

architect/m.builder: ⁽¹⁾ REV. SAMUEL LONGFELLOW engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

&
appropriate date)

personal (1) Benjamin MARSTON WATSON - horticulturalist
owner of house - associated with many of the Concord
Philosophers of the 19th C.

events

(2) Among those who made extended visits: Henry David Thoreau, Bronson
Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing, Richard Henry Dana,
Edward Everett Hale, Wendell Phillips, Horace Greeley, Louisa May Alcott

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1845

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

c. 1890's

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

9.4

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

FRAME, CLAPBOARDING; 1 1/2 STORIES,
IRREGULAR SHAPE, INTERSECTING GABLED ROOF WITH DORMERS, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS,
PROTECTING FRONT: GABLED ^{entry} ENTRANCE BAY WITH ^{with} ^{foyer} 1ST STORY TUDOR-ARCHED
^{openings} PORCH, ~~ADDITIONAL SIDE ENTRANCE~~, ^{front} POLYGONAL SIDE WINDOW ~~BAY~~; 2-STORY
HIPPED ADDITION, C. 1890's; REMAINS OF EXTENSIVE NURSERY PLANTINGS AROUND

HOUSE. GOTHIC REVIVAL. RESIDENCE OF ⁽³⁾ BENJAMIN MARSTON WATSON,
^{horticulturalist}

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

WHO ESTABLISHED THE OLD COLONY NURSERIES
AND INTRODUCED MANY NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS AND TREES TO THIS
COUNTRY; WATSON WAS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH ⁽⁴⁾ MANY OF THE NOTED
^{intellectuals} PHILOSOPHERS OF THE DAY INCLUDING ⁽⁵⁾ THOREAU, ⁽⁶⁾ EMERSON, HORACE
GREELEY, AND ⁽⁷⁾ LOUISA MAY ALCOTT.

want to mention any
others, S.?