

MAY 22 1989

630

AREA

FORM NO.

326

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester, Mass. M.R.A.)

Town WINCHESTER

Address 8 Grove Street

Historic Name Thomas Ayer House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1854

Source Walling Map of 1854

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings carriage house/c

Major Alterations (with dates) Full-width

open porch removed, later Colonial Revival entrance porch added; date ?
Condition Excellent

Moved no Date

Acreage .81 acres 07-0048

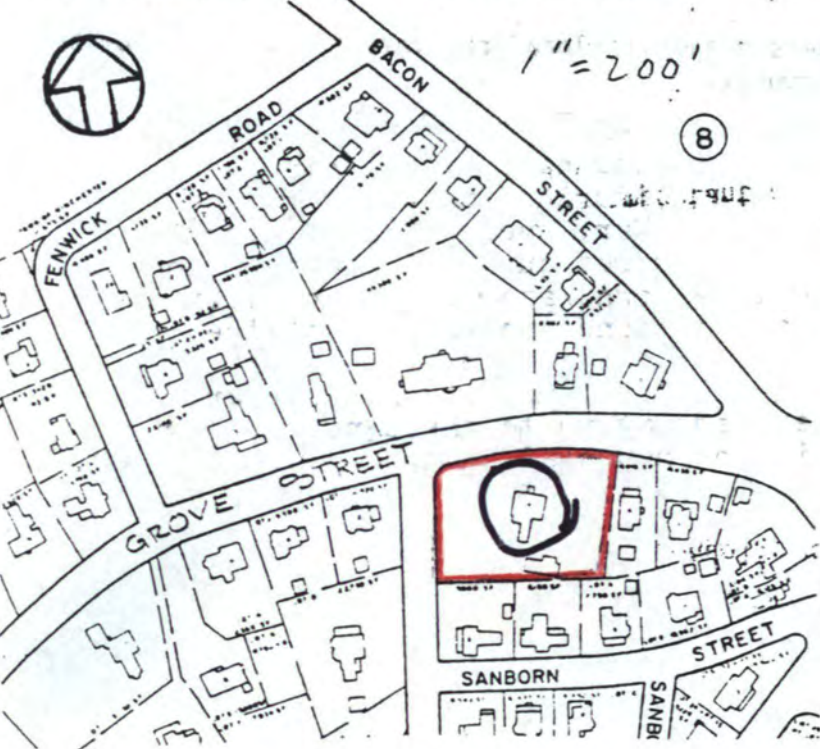
Setting Suburban residential along early road to Medford.

Recorded by Bettina Cooper, Carol Ely

Organization Winchester Historical Comm.

Date 11/78; rev. by H. White 10/87

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or



UTM REFERENCE 19.324210.47 00860

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Thomas Ayer House is notable as a well-detailed example of an Italianate residence of conservative design, built at the time of the beginning of upper and middle class suburban residential development in Winchester. The Ayer house is also significant as the residence of Albert Ayer, a prominent local citizen during the second half of the nineteenth century. Therefore the Ayer House meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Ayer House is a representative example of the type of house built for prosperous Boston businessmen, who settled in Winchester during the first period of suburbanization, just after mid century. Its setting amidst expansive landscaped grounds is typical. The Ayer house is characterized by an overall symmetry; it is based on a rectangular plan, with five-bay facade organization. The gable roof has a ridge parallel to the street, with gable ends and short gable returns. The eaves are embellished with paired brackets. There are two interior chimneys of brick on the ridge. Fenestration consists of of six-over-six moveable sash with projecting lintels and sills. Facade windows on the lower story are full-height.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The Thomas Ayer House was built circa 1854 by Thomas Prentiss Ayer, who was active in local affairs during the second half of the nineteenth century. Ayer came to Winchester around 1850, during its early period of suburbanization. At the time of the Civil War, Ayer presided over a town meeting concerned with raising the required quota of draftees to the military. Ayer was also involved with a town water supply committee, the town hall building committee, and he petitioned for reform of the school curriculum. Ayer was the second president of the Winchester Savings Bank, which had been chartered in 1871. A member of the Board of Selectmen in 1861-62, he became a Representative to the General Court in 1880. Ayer's brother Albert lived in the house at 8 Brooks Street (#345) (circa 1865), a property contiguous with the Grove Street estate.

1. Thomas P. Ayer, 1854-93
2. Charles Jenkins, 1896-1908
3. William Forbes, 1909-1914
4. Cora Marsh, 1915-1917
5. Edward C. Mason, 1918-1951
6. W. Lawrence Usher, 1952-1977

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deeds.
History of Winchester, by H. Chapman, 1936, pp.192, 196, 211, 220, 231, 251, 290, 291, 339.
Winchester Archival Center, files.

MAY 22 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Cover | Substantive Review | | for Keeper <u>Betty Saurse 7-5-89</u> |
| 1. Ayer, Albert, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 2. Ayer, Thomas, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 3. Bacon, Robert, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 4. Baker, Kenelum, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 5. Brackett, Edward A., House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 6. Braddock, Edward, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 7. Brine, George, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 8. Carr--Jeeves House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 8/2/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 9. Central Street Historic District | Substantive Review | | for Keeper _____ |
| | | Attest _____ | |
| 10. Childs, Webster, House | Entered in the
National Register | | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 7/5/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ayer, Thomas, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Winchester MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000630

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/5/89 DATE

Entered in file
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Thos. Ayer House
8 Grove St. 1/88
Winchester, Ma. MRA

MHC Inv. # 326

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303