

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number  
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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## Photograph



**Town/City:** Amherst

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Prospect-Gaylord National Register District

**Address:** 100 North Prospect

**Historic Name:** Horace and Nora Thayer house

**Uses:** Present: Residence

Original: Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1911-12

**Source:** tax records

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

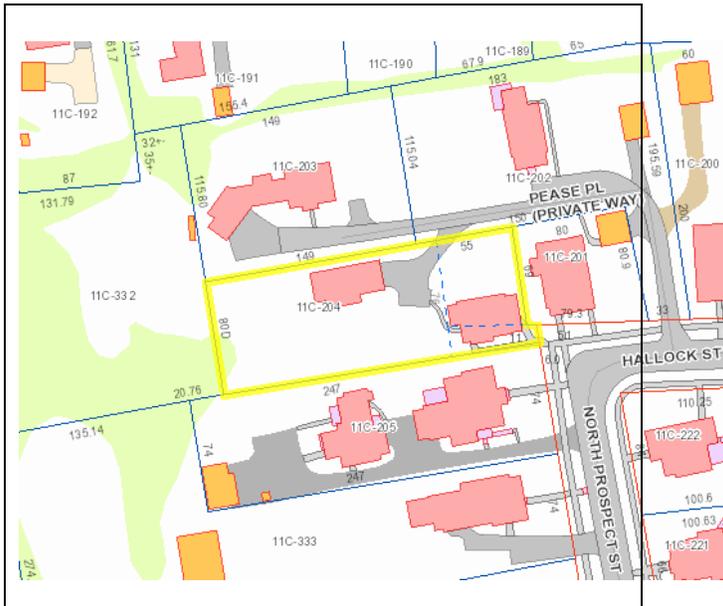
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** .4 acres

**Setting:** This house is tucked into the NW corner where North Prospect Street runs into Hallock Street. It can also be approached from Pease Place. It is on a residential street with old trees.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Suzannah Fabing

**Organization:** LHDSC

**Date** (*month / year*): August 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMHERST

100 NORTH PROSPECT ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This front-gabled house with a cross-pitched roof features some Queen Anne details, such as the cut-away side bay on the south side and asymmetrical front façade, where another bay window on the second floor aligns with the front door. It appears to be a builder's interpretation of architect-designed houses of a slightly earlier era. Designs for homes like this were available through magazines and pattern books.

There is a veranda across the entire street (east) façade. The plan is sidehall, with the front door on the north end of the east façade. "Tuscan" columns support the veranda, and its balusters alternate between turned examples and posts that are simply square in section. A triple window (the center section being taller) in the gable provides light to the attic. The same window repeats in the gable at the rear. A half-width porch marks a rear entry.

The property includes a two-car modern garage of wood clapboard on a cement block foundation, roofed in asphalt shingle. There is a large workshop behind the car bays, outfitted with a chimney. A door in the south façade provides access to this space.

This property is part of the Prospect-Gaylord Historic District, which was designated a National Register Historic District on 4 February 1993.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

Leaving aside two barns converted into residences in the mid-1920s, this is the last house to have been constructed on North Prospect Street. The land on which it stands was originally part of Dr. Rufus Cowles's farm, which was bought by Osmyn Baker in the 1850s. Baker sold a large portion to Leavitt Hallock, who extended North Prospect Street from today's Cowles Lane to its present terminus and laid out Hallock Street as well. Hallock built and lived in what later became the Oliver Pease house, today #45-47 Hallock Street. He sold the house to Pease in 1863, with a large amount of surrounding land at the "elbow" of the two streets. Pease subdivided this land into several plots and sold the ones on which 94 and 90 North Prospect now stand. It was not until 1910, however, that Pease's widow and sons sold the Hallock Street house and the remaining land. The buyers were William and Alice Reed. The Reeds quickly sold some back land to Rufus Stratton, who lived at #94, and sold the lot on which #100 stands to Horace Thayer and his wife Nora. They sold the Hallock/Pease house to Arthur Johnson and his wife in 1910. The Reeds built a house for themselves, #7 Pease Place, on the remainder of the parcel.

Horace Thayer was taxed in 1912 on an unfinished house and an 18-rod lot "off Hallock Street." In 1913 he was taxed on the house, valued at \$1850, and the lot, valued at \$200, which establishes the date of construction of 100 North Prospect. The Thayers had been renting quarters around the corner, at 4 Hallock Street, before they built the house.

Horace A. Thayer (1888-1967) was a designer and pattern-maker at the Hills hat factory at the time of the 1920 and 1930 US Census. Beginning with the 1936 City Directory he is listed among the painters and decorators, and in the 1940 Census he is identified as a painter and paper-hanger, working on his "own account," i.e. self-employed. There were several Thayers listed as painters in the Amherst City Directories, probably relatives. Horace's wife Nora (née Honora A. Riley, 1882-1958) predeceased

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him. Their daughter Eileen, born in 1910, became a nurse. She was still living at home in 1930. The household included a male lodger—a public school teacher—that year. In the 1940 US Census there was a female lodger—a fourth-grade teacher at a public school. Horace Thayer is listed at 100 North Prospect as late as the 1954 city directory.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

U. S. Census, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Town of Amherst tax records for Horace Thayer, 1912-13, Jones Library, Amherst, Special Collections.

Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 659/205-208, Pease to Reed, 30 August 1910; 667/121-2, Reed to Thayer 2 May 1911. Thanks to Ed Wilfert for tax and deed research.

Amherst City Directories, 1911-1954.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Form B (1988), online in the MACRIS database.

Records for Horace A. Thayer and Honora Riley Thayer at ancestry.com.



Rear view of 100 N. Prospect Street

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Garage/workshop at 100 N. Prospect Street