

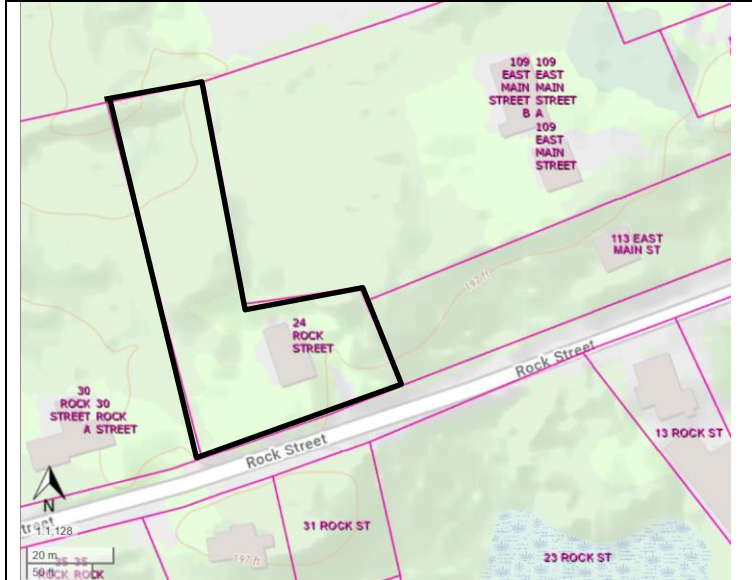
# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Avon Historical Commission

**Date (month / year):** December 2022

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

D5/ 1/ 3/ /

Blue Hills

AVO.67

**Town/City:** Avon

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 24 Rock Street

**Historic Name:** Orrin and Sarah Thayer House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1860-1865

**Source:** 1858 map; census

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): None

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.85

**Setting:** Located on a narrow side street lined with 2-story houses on large, wooded lots. A large glacial outcrop is located across the street from the house. Surrounding houses are of similar age and form.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AVON

24 ROCK ST

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AVO.67

☐ 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.*

Located on a sloping site amid glacial outcroppings, the house is oriented to the east and perpendicular to the street. An uncut-stone retaining wall lines the street frontage. An asphalt-paved driveway leads past the façade to a parking area at the north end of the house. The frame house rests on a cut stone foundation and rises two stories to a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps are located atop the roof ridge. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep with a single window in the gable peak. The center entrance contains a paneled wood door framed by full-height sidelights. The entablature features a shallow pointed-arch crown. The house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a frieze. Windows are 2/2 wood sash with external storm windows. The flat window surrounds feature a slender drip cap. The house retains a high level of integrity.

### 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.*

24 Rock Street was likely constructed circa 1860-1865 for Orrin and Sarah Thayer. Stoughton native Orrin Tracey Thayer (1826-1875)<sup>1</sup> married his wife, Sarah Packard Thayer (1832-1906) (known as Sally), in 1852. Orrin Thayer served in the Union Army, Company A, 33<sup>rd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. The Thayer family first appears in Stoughton census records in 1865. At that time, Orrin Thayer was working as a "pedlar." The 1870 census recorded his occupation as "huckster." (Historically, peddlers were persons who traveled to sell items, whereas, a huckster sold items from a fixed location, such as a stall.) Orrin and Sally's son, Charles Emery Thayer (1857-1930)<sup>2</sup> and his wife, Lillian J. Hamilton Thayer (1866-1946),<sup>3</sup> were married in 1882 and made this their residence. Charles Thayer worked as a boot maker and as a wholesale produce dealer.

In 1888, Edward Doherty purchased the house.<sup>4</sup> At the time, Doherty owned 30 Rock Street next door. Census records indicate that, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, three of the four houses on Rock Street were occupied by members of the extended Doherty family. Nearly all of the Doherty men on Rock Street were employed in the shoe manufacturing industry. The property remained in the Doherty family until 1940.<sup>5</sup>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories.

Findagrave.com.

Hodges, Joseph. "Plan of the Town of Stoughton." 1830. Massachusetts State Archives.

Massachusetts Vital Records.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

Robinson, E. *Robinson's Atlas of Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. New York: E. Robinson, Publisher, 1888.

Sherman, G.A. *Atlas of Norfolk County*. New York: Comstock & Cline, 1876.

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #21785516. Accessed Oct. 20, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #177021712. Accessed Oct. 20, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #177022070. Accessed Oct. 20, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 606, p. 483.

<sup>5</sup> Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 2273, p. 526.

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Town of Avon. Tax Assessor records.  
United States Census. Ancestry.com.  
Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Norfolk County, Mass.* Boston: Smith & Bumstead, 1858.



View looking northeast.