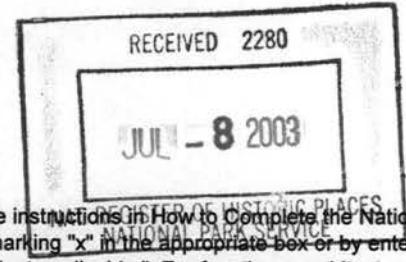


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Burlington Road and Wilson Road not for publication

city or town Bedford vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director for
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz Date 7/3/03

Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

8/18/2003

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
1	0	sites
3	1	structures
0	1	objects
8	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead) 1977

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/manufacturing facility

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/park

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls clapboard

brick

roof asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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7. Narrative Description

Bedford is a suburban town located approximately sixteen miles northwest of Boston, just outside the Route 128/Interstate 95 beltway. The town is bordered on the north by Billerica, on the east by Burlington and Lexington, on the south by Lincoln, and on the west by Concord and Carlisle. The Concord River defines Bedford's western border. In the eastern part of town are the headwaters of the Shawsheen River, which provides interior drainage to the Merrimack River approximately ten miles north of Bedford. Bedford has several brooks that feed into either the Concord or Shawsheen Rivers, among them Vine Brook in East Bedford, which originates in neighboring Lexington. Three state highways – Routes 4, 225, and 62 – converge at the center of Bedford, and U. S. Route 3, a limited access highway, passes through the northeast corner of the town.

The Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District is situated on the south side of Burlington Road (Route 62), immediately west of the U. S. Route 3 interchange. The district extends roughly from the intersection of Wilson Road and Old Burlington Road north to Burlington Road/Route 62, then east to include the former millpond in its entirety. Located in a wooded suburban setting in a hilly section of Bedford, the Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District ranges over terrain that descends slightly from the intersection of Wilson Road and Old Burlington Road on the southeast toward Vine Brook to the north. From the millpond east of Old Burlington Road, Vine Brook flows westerly through the dam below the roadway before turning in a northwesterly direction, passing beneath Burlington Road/Route 62 en route to the Shawsheen River. The brook on the west/northwest side of Old Burlington Road passes through a ravine, with the mill site occupying a steep slope on the eastern bank at the falls.

There are three historic residences in the district, in addition to the mill site on Vine Brook with its associated structures and millpond. Also in the district are two bridges, the first carrying Old Burlington Road over the dam at Vine Brook, and the second carrying Burlington Road/Route 62 over the brook at the district's northern edge. Portions of six residential lots on Old Burlington Road and Ledgewood Drive are included in the district solely for their water acreage, as collectively these lots comprise the southern part of the historic millpond. The district boundary runs along the southern shore of the millpond and specifically excludes any other acreage or the contemporary residential construction associated with these six lots. The district is distinguished from contemporary residential construction on the east, south, and west, and the mid- to late 20th-century highway construction to the north.

Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road

The oldest dwelling in the district is the Georgian-style Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road (ca. 1740, MHC #21, NRIND 1977, Photo 1), which is also the older of two brick-end houses in Bedford. The house faces south, with one brick end (east elevation) directly fronting Wilson Road, and the façade (south elevation) oriented toward the northerly approach on Wilson Road heading toward Vine Brook. Old Burlington Road passes the rear (north elevation) of the house. Two stories with a low hipped roof and four tall interior end chimneys, the Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett house has a fieldstone foundation with granite facing blocks and wood clapboard siding on the south and north elevations. The brick ends are laid up in nine-course American bond. The house is five bays across the façade (south elevation), two bays deep on the brick end, and three bays across the rear (north) elevation. On the west elevation, there is a 1½-story wing, four bays by one bay, with a rubblestone foundation, clapboard siding, and a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The center entry on the façade features an entablature surround with a fanlight above. Windows contain 12/12 wood

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Continuation Sheet

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 2

sash. The rear elevation was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style, possibly ca. 1900, resulting in the present three-bay center-entry configuration. The hip-roofed projecting entry vestibule includes full-length fanlights on either side of the door. Flanking the entry are paired windows.

The Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett property retains remnants of fieldstone walls along the street edges, as well as granite fence posts along a portion of the Wilson Road frontage and wrapping the corner at the intersection with Old Burlington Road. One of the house's front steps is an old millstone from the John Wilson corn mill that operated on Vine Brook. [National Register nomination, 1977] The property includes a wood-frame shed of contemporary vintage.

130 Old Burlington Road

The Hunt-Bixler House, 130 Old Burlington Road (1924, MHC #411, Photo 2), is a 1½-story, Colonial Revival-style dwelling on a rubblestone foundation with wood clapboard siding, cornerboards, and an asphalt shingle roof. Brick chimneys are located at the roof ridge, with an interior chimney at the east (right) end of the house and an exterior end chimney on the west (left) end. Roughly square in massing, the main block is three bays across the façade and approximately four bays deep, with a lateral, side-gabled wing (two bays by one bay) set back from the façade on the east elevation. The wing has a concrete foundation. There are two entries on the facade: a gabled projecting center entry on the main block, and a secondary entry on the lateral wing. The projecting entry is one bay deep. Windows contain either 2/2 or 3/1 wood sash, and there is a wide shed dormer on the façade. The historic garage (1920s) is a wood-frame, front-gable building clad with clapboards.

138 Old Burlington Road

The last building in the district, the Hunt House, 138 Old Burlington Road (ca. 1900, MHC #412, Photo 3), is a 2½-story dwelling and a modest example of the Colonial Revival style. This gable-front house is rectangular in massing, on a stone foundation, with a brick chimney at the roof ridge, wood shingle siding, and asphalt shingles on the roof. The full-width hip-roofed front porch is clad with clapboards and likely was enclosed after the house was built. Windows on the main block contain 2/2 wood sash, with 1/1 sash in the porch. There is a one-story shed-roofed addition to the rear and a gable-roofed shed (early 20th century) northwest of the house.

Wilson Mill Site and Millpond

On Vine Brook at the northern end of the district is the Wilson Mill Site (fourth quarter 17th century onward, MHC #HA-1, see sketch map). Remnants of the mill foundation (Photo 4) are located on a steep slope on the eastern bank of the brook, directly north and west of the Old Burlington Road bridge. Surviving stone walls, compared with a footprint of the mill as shown on the 1916 County Commissioners layout of the adjacent roadway, suggest a mill building that was roughly forty feet square, with a lateral wing on the east side that was roughly twenty feet square. Additional remnants of stone walls, possibly more of the foundation, survive to the north, between the mill foundation and Route 62 [see December 2000 survey]. Other man-made components of the mill site west of Old Burlington Road include the spillway (Photo 5) on the west bank of the brook, and a stone-lined channeled streambed (Photo 5) immediately below (south) of the mill leading from the falls. For reference to the dam, see the bridge description below. Both the spillway and the

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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stone lining of the streambed have been disturbed in places. At the northern border of the district, construction of the Burlington Road/Route 62 bridge over Vine Brook (1953, 1999, MHC #929, Photo 5) likely destroyed whatever historic resources may have existed on the brook at that location.

East of Old Burlington Road is the millpond (late 17th century). Construction in the 1950s and 1960s of the Burlington Road/Route 62 highway and U. S. Route 3 destroyed much of the millpond, particularly at its eastern end. Immediately adjacent to the north/east shore of the pond, and close to Old Burlington Road, are remains of stone walls that form a rectangle measuring about thirty feet by twenty feet. The history of the building on this stone foundation at the millpond (19th century, see sketch map) and the circumstances of its construction have not been established, though a barn was known to have existed at the mill site in the 19th century. Another rectangular building, measuring roughly one hundred feet by thirty-five feet, is shown on the 1916 County layout further northeast, though no remains of this building are visible currently.

Bridges and Monument

The district includes two bridges over Vine Brook. The Old Burlington Road Bridge (19th century, MHC #931, Photo 6) is positioned over the falls on the brook. The stone arch bridge consists of a central arch through which water passes from the millpond to the falls, and a smaller arch to the southwest that leads from the millpond to the spillway. Vehicular traffic over the bridge was discontinued in the early 1950s, when construction of Burlington Road/Route 62 led to the closure of Old Burlington Road about one hundred feet north of Vine Brook.

Construction of the Burlington Road/Route 62 Bridge (1953, 1999, MHC #929, Photo 5) likely destroyed historic resources on Vine Brook along the northern edge of the Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District. During a highway improvement project that occurred from 1998 to 2000, the 1953 stone arch bridge was heightened and width of the bridge significantly expanded with the construction of flanking stone retaining walls. A noncontributing element of the historic district, this bridge creates a strong visual and physical barrier on Vine Brook that severs historic resources on this section of the brook from any others that may survive on the other side of Burlington Road/Route 62.

The stone DeVincent Monument (1997, MHC #930, Photo 3) is compatible with the district in size and materials but is considered a noncontributing element due to its recent date. The inscription of the plaque affixed to the boulder reads "Historical site/Here John Wilson built/his corne mill in 1676/This land in memory of/John & Sophie DeVincent/of Waltham/through the generosity of/their heirs, 1997." The monument honors the contribution of the DeVincent family to the preservation of the Wilson mill site (see **Significance** for more information).

Impact of Mid- to Late Twentieth-century Construction

Construction since World War II of adjacent state and federal highways has greatly affected the Wilson mill site and millpond. The mill site and pond are wooded and relatively secluded in terms of vehicular access, due to the discontinuation of Old Burlington Road about one hundred feet north of Vine Brook. However, encroachment from Burlington Road/Route 62 and its interchange with U. S. Route 3 has radically altered the historic character of the area along the northern edge of the Historic Wilson Mill –Old Burlington Road District. This encroachment has disturbed the

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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stone-lined channeled streambed and the spillway on the west bank of Vine Brook. There is also the visual intrusion of the highway itself, though the district's surviving historic resources are distinguished from adjacent highway construction. Construction of U. S. Route 3 immediately east of the district destroyed much of the original pond; the district boundaries encompass the remnant of the pond in its entirety.

Archaeological Description

Although no ancient Native American sites are currently identified within the Wilson Mill-Old Burlington Road District, sites may be present. Seven sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile), including two sites immediately abutting the eastern end of the district in the Route 3 interchange area. The Route 3 North Findspot Site (19-MD-602) was located during a locational survey prior to renovations for Route 3. That site consisted of a single argillite flake with little additional research potential. The Route 3 North D-1 Site (19-MD-601) was also originally located during a locational survey for Route 3 renovations and later site examination level testing. That site was located on a small hill overlooking Vine Brook to the west. Locational survey testing at the D-1 site produced a Late Archaic period projectile point and chipping debitage. No cultural features were encountered. Site examination level testing at the D-1 Site did not produce additional cultural material. The D-1 Site was determined to be disturbed and no further work was recommended. It was hypothesized that artifacts recovered at the D-1 Site during the locational survey were deposited there in fill associated with construction of Route 3 North. Given the above information, neither the Route 3 North Findspot Site or the D-1 Site are believed to extend into the Historic Wilson Mill-Old Burlington Road District. Similar, as yet undiscovered sites may, however, exist in the district.

Environmental characteristics of the area indicate a high potential for the presence of ancient Native American sites in the district. The district includes well drained, level to moderately sloping terraced areas adjacent to Vine Brook, a portion of which has been dammed to form a mill pond. Most soils in the area are formed from glacial till. Vine Brook is a tributary of the Shawsheen River within the Merrimack River drainage. Given the above information, the size of the district (approximately 9 acres), and the extent of industrial, agricultural, domestic, and transportation related landuse, a moderate to high potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the district. Potential sites in the area may be characterized by findspots and smaller, temporary special purpose type sites associated with the procurement of subsistence resources and local raw materials.

The presence of historic archaeological resources in the district is documented and a high potential exists that additional resources will be found. Stone foundations and water power related canals are located in the vicinity of the mill site and in the surrounding area. Industrial landuse began at the Wilson Mill Site (BED-HA-1) with the construction of a grist mill by John Wilson possibly as early as c. 1676, definitely by 1683, the year Billerica citizens voted to build a road (now Wilson Road) to the mill. Wilson may have also operated a saw mill at the same location in the late 17th century. Structural evidence may survive from the 17th century grist and saw mills operated by Wilson, however, no definite evidence of these mills has yet been identified. Stonework and stratigraphic evidence from a dam, spillway, and other water power features may also survive associated with these early mills. The grist mill and saw mill operated until ca. 1840 when a paper mill began operation at the site. The paper mill burned in 1846. Archaeological evidence may survive at the mill site from the 1846 fire, paper mill operations, and potential alterations, if any, to the mill during its transition

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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from a grist/saw mill to paper mill. In 1847, a sawmill was built at the site that manufactured blinds and sashes. This mill was demolished at an unknown date, definitely by 1947. Existing stonework at the Wilson Mill Site is probably associated with the 1847 mill and its later use. The mill was apparently closed about the time of World War I or the 1920s when cider was believed to be manufactured. The Wilson Mill Company is labeled as the owner of the mill in the 1906 County Atlas, however, further information on the company has not been located. Structural evidence also exists for a stone foundation north and east of Burlington Road. A larger building is also depicted at the site on the 1916 County map, however, no surface evidence exists from that structure today.

Structural evidence from the John Wilson House Site may also exist north of the mill pond and Vine Brook. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist with the Wilson House Site, the components of the Wilson Mill Site, and the extant residential homes in the district including the Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead (c. 1740) at 118 Wilson Road. The latter house was operated as a farm during the 18th century.

Archaeological evidence may also exist related to ice harvesting activities in the mill pond locale as late as the 1890s.

(end)

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District

Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Rec.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Industry

Period of Significance

Ca. 1740-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Bedford Historical Society, Bedford, MA

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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8. Statement of Significance

The Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District, Bedford, is one of the most historically significant areas in the town. A small crossroads community developed around a series of industries that harnessed waterpower from Vine Brook from the 17th through the 20th centuries, and the district encompasses the architectural and archaeological remnants of that community. The falls at Vine Brook, which are included in the district boundaries, powered in turn a gristmill, a sawmill, a coarse paper mill, and a blinds and sashes factory. Architecturally, the district includes the older of only two brick-end houses in Bedford, the Georgian-style Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road (NR 1977), as well as two Colonial Revival-style dwellings from the early 20th century. The area surrounding the historic district was radically altered in the mid-to late 20th century with the construction of Burlington Road/Route 62 to the north, U. S. Route 3 to the northeast, and post-World War II residential development to the south and west. In spite of these changes, the district maintains its strong associations with the history of Bedford's settlement and industry. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District meets Criteria A and C of the National Register at the local level.

The Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District is significant in the early history of settlement within the present boundaries of Bedford. As early as 1676, according to some sources, John Wilson (1650-1734) established a corn (grist) mill on Vine Brook, a tributary of the Shawsheen River. At the time, this area was part of the town of Billerica (1665). The southerly portion of Billerica, including the district area, was known as Winthrop Farm, a reference to the 1,200 acres at "Shawshin" or Shawsheen that the Massachusetts General Court granted to Governor John Winthrop in 1637. This and other 17th-century land grants (see also below) contribute to the present land area of Bedford.

John Wilson was raised in Woburn but the place of his birth has not been determined. The year he arrived in Billerica (now Bedford) is not clear, though he is known to have moved to the area with his first wife and his three older children (Wilson was married in 1671). Initially Wilson operated his gristmill as a tenant of the Reverend Jonathan Mitchell, the second minister of the town of Cambridge. In 1652, the Rev. Mitchell had received a grant of 500 acres in the vicinity of the Shawsheen River and Old Billerica Road. In 1682, the widow Mitchell sold 137 acres of land at Vine Brook to John Wilson. The same year, other acreage in the so-called Mitchell Grant was sold to Michael Bacon III (ca. 1640-1707), who had operated his own gristmill on the Shawsheen River, also as a tenant of the Rev. Mitchell, as early as 1675. [Mansur, 12/22/76; MHC Area J]

John Wilson is known to have established his mill on Vine Brook by 1683, the year the citizens of Billerica voted to build a road to the mill. Also that year, Wilson acquired five acres in the distribution of the town's common lands for twenty silver shillings. In 1685, the town gave Wilson an additional thirty acres southeast of the Shawsheen River "for encouragement towards his corne mill." Ina Mansur, Bedford town historian from 1975 to 1988, suggested that Wilson may have first built a sawmill and that "the inhabitants of Billerica encouraged him to expand his business by installing corn grinding stones for the convenience of his neighbors who could reach his mill by the newly laid road." [Mansur, 12/22/76]

At least four mills are known to have operated within the present boundaries of Bedford during the early settlement period. Both John Wilson and Michael Bacon III initially operated their respective mills in East Bedford as tenants of the

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

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Rev. Jonathan Mitchell (see above). Bacon's mill was the Bacon-Fitch-Clark gristmill off Old Billerica Road at the Shawsheen River (third quarter 17th century onward, later a sawmill, demolished 1947, MHC #HA-3, see below). In southwest Bedford was Wheeler Mill (1729) on Elm Brook, and in northwest Bedford was the Lane-Fitch sawmill on Peppergrass Brook off Carlisle Road (by 1730, MHC Area Q).

The historic district contains a segment of Wilson Road, one of Bedford's late 17th-century highways. In 1694, the present road was laid out from Michael Bacon's property across the Shawsheen River southeast to John Wilson's mill, then up the hill in a southerly direction toward the town of Lexington. Other highways from the period included the road from Billerica to Concord (roughly North Road-Concord Road currently, though the present route is not entirely the original), the route following Pine Hill Road-Page Road-Brooksbie Road (1694), and the road from Billerica to Cambridge, now Lexington (Old Billerica Road-Page Road-Shawsheen Avenue-Pine Street). The way to Woburn, now Burlington, included a portion of the eastern part of Page Road, which was later known as the Cummings Road. In the western part of the present Bedford, Davis Road connected Concord to the Great Meadows on the eastern side of the Concord River.

From the 1690s through the 1720s, John Wilson was an active participant in local military affairs and politics. In 1691, he received the commission of lieutenant, and distinguished himself in military service during the French and Indian Wars. Two years later, Wilson was appointed to the committee to build a new meetinghouse at Billerica Center. He served as a selectman in Billerica in 1696-1697 and 1703-1704. In 1705, Wilson represented Billerica in the General Court. In 1725, Wilson joined other inhabitants of Winthrop Farm (then the southerly portion of Billerica) to petition for separation from Billerica. This effort failed, but a second petition about four years later succeeded. In anticipation of approval, local housewrights built Bedford's first meetinghouse (1728-1729, demolished) on the present town common, the geographical center of the new town. Construction was nearly complete by the time of Bedford's incorporation in 1729. According to the 1728 tax roll, there were forty-six persons residing within the present boundaries of Bedford. The new town incorporated in 1729 included about fifty dwellings. The Congregational church in Bedford organized in 1730, and the same year the town laid out what later became known as the Old Burying Ground, Springs Road (1730, MHC #800, NRDIS/LHD). Bedford established its first school in 1732.

The same period brought certain changes in John Wilson's family life that relate to the history of the mill's ownership after his death. Wilson's first marriage in 1671 produced one son, also named John, and five daughters who survived infancy. His wife, Joanna, died in 1693. In 1698, Wilson married Susanna (Redit) Miles of Concord, who died soon after. He subsequently married a third time, and had two more sons, Samuel and Francis. Wilson's oldest son, John, was a successful farmer and real estate investor in Billerica who apparently did not need, or receive, any of his father's land. In 1717-1718, John and Rebecca Wilson sold to their son, Francis, thirty acres south of the millpond on the road to Lexington, or what is now Wilson Road. As described by Ina Mansur, part of the lot was the western section of the thirty acres Wilson acquired in 1685 from the town of Billerica, located southeast of the Shawsheen River and extending south from the millpond along the present Wilson Road. Ten years later, the Wilsons granted to son Samuel one-quarter of the Wilson homestead, encompassing 51 acres south of the millpond and east of the land granted to Francis, plus one-quarter of an orchard, and an apartment on the north side of the Wilson house where John Wilson's mother lived. Mansur notes that because these transactions make no mention of buildings (other than the grandmother's apartment), John Wilson's home (demolished) may have stood north of the millpond and Vine Brook. Contrary to other sources, the house did not occupy the site of what is now 69 Wilson Road (see MHC Area L). [Mansur, 12/22/76]

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

In 1729, John Wilson deeded one-half interest each in the sawmill and gristmill at Vine Brook to his sons Samuel (d. 1747) and Francis (d. 1765). Wilson died in 1734 at the age of 84 years, and Samuel and Francis shared his estate in addition to ownership of the mills at Vine Brook. Samuel Wilson is believed to have been the operator of both mills, as Francis reportedly described his own occupation as a weaver. Samuel Wilson was an active miller and a man of means, according to Mansur's research. At his death, an inventory put the value of his estate at 1,486 pounds, or about three times what he would have had working as a farmer. In addition to half the mills at Vine Brook, Samuel Wilson owned orchards, plowland, pasturage, meadow, woodland, a house, and two barns. [Ina Mansur, 01/06/77; Lawrence Mansur notes, 02/16/89]

The activities of the Wilson family at Vine Brook reflect Bedford's development during the late 18th century. The 1765 census recorded 457 people in 72 families and 67 houses. Residents were farmers, millers, or innkeepers. By 1776, Bedford's population stood at 482, gradually increasing during the Federal period. Vine Brook was in a comparatively remote location, at some distance from the meetinghouse and developing village center on Great Road and the town's emerging business center immediately to the northwest. Yet, the mills and brick-end residence at Vine Brook are consistent with the pattern of scattered farmsteads and water-powered industries that characterized Bedford in the Colonial period.

Following the deaths of Samuel and Francis Wilson, ownership of the mills at Vine Brook was divided among their heirs. By 1777, William Maxwell (ca. 1753-1832) had amassed a three-quarters interest in the gristmill, sawmill, mill yard, millpond, and dam. Rebecca Wilson (1733-1789), a daughter of Francis and Patience Wilson, owned the remaining one-quarter interest. She and Maxwell were partners in running the mills. Ina Mansur's research indicates that Rebecca Wilson was the mother of William Maxwell, and that she did not marry her son's father, a Bedford man also named William Maxwell. The junior William Maxwell, who was a blacksmith by trade, married Sarah Bowman of Bedford in 1773. He was about twenty-two years old in 1775 when he began to acquire his holdings in the Wilson mills from Wilson relatives and other parties, and only held his share for two years. William and Sarah Maxwell had seven or eight children; one of their daughters was named Rebecca Wilson Maxwell. [Ina Mansur letter to Charlie Stearns, 12/13/78]

In 1777, William Maxwell and Rebecca Wilson sold their holdings in the mills to Oliver Bacon. Bacon (1740-1794) was a Lexington native and a shoemaker. The sale from Rebecca Wilson included twenty-three acres north of the mills and the Wilson house (demolished) north of the mill yard. The house is believed to have been the residence of Francis Wilson and his wife, Patience, parents of Rebecca Wilson. Bacon resided in the house for almost twenty years [Mansur, 01/06/77; 01/13/77]

Oliver Bacon's 1777 acquisition of the mills at Vine Brook ended the connection between the mills and the Wilson family. He operated the mills in partnership with Jonas Gleason until about 1793, within a year of his (Bacon's) death. Though Oliver Bacon described his occupation as cordwainer (shoemaker), Jonas Gleason was known as a miller, which suggests he may have had charge of the daily operations of the mills. When the business partnership was dissolved in 1793, Jonas Gleason acquired sole ownership of the mills.

Oliver Bacon and his business partner at the mills, Jonas Gleason (d. 1815), were brothers-in-law. Bacon's sister, Ruth, married Jonas Gleason about 1774. Oliver Bacon himself married about 1770. He and his wife, Sarah, had seven

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children, five of whom reached adulthood. In April 1775, he served four days as a drummer for the Bedford Minute Men; his uncle, Thomas Bacon, was one of the Minute Men who battled with British forces at Concord on April 19th. Bacon was a grandson of Nathaniel Bacon, who resided on the east side of the Shawsheen River from about 1700 onward. Nathaniel Bacon reportedly built the Georgian house known as the Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road (ca. 1740, MHC #21, NRIND 1977) on a 100-acre parcel of land he acquired from his father, Michael Bacon. In 1744, Thomas Bacon (1721-1792), Nathaniel's son and Oliver's uncle, acquired the homestead and managed it as a farm. His own son and Oliver's cousin, Jonas Bacon, owned the property about the time that Oliver acquired the mills and surrounding acreage in this section of Bedford. [Mansur, 01/13/77; National Register nomination, Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead]

Jonas Gleason purchased the homestead at 118 Wilson Road from Jonas Bacon in 1793. At the time, the property occupied a parcel of thirty-eight acres. Like Oliver Bacon, Gleason was a Lexington native and had served as a Bedford Minute Man. He and his wife, Ruth, also had seven children. Ruth (Bacon) Gleason died in 1793, just four months after they purchased the house on Wilson Road. Gleason remarried in 1795; he and his second wife, Abigail (Danforth) Gleason, had two sons. The Gleasons continued to live in the house until 1815, when they both died. Charles Gleason, one of Jonas Gleason's sons from his second marriage, received title to the house, and Jonas and Simeon Gleason, two of his children from his first marriage, received the remainder of the property. [Mansur, 01/13/77]

Within one year of his death in 1815, Jonas Gleason sold the mills to Otis Reed (d.1829). In 1816, Otis Reed sold in turn to John Reed, who sold to Simeon Blodgett and took back a mortgage on Blodgett's house (at 118 Wilson Road, see above), plus the gristmill, sawmill, and other mill property known as Wilson's mills. [Lineage of Wilson's Mills; National Register nomination for 118 Wilson Road] The property conveyed included the millpond and water in Vine Brook to guard against the construction of dams that could damage the water supply to the mills. Simeon Blodgett (1780-ca. 1836) was a Lexington native who married Sally Fitch of Bedford in 1804. They had nine children, and their oldest son was Orvilers Blodgett (b. 1805), a housewright. In addition to operating the mills, Simeon Blodgett reportedly farmed the land associated with the house at 118 Wilson Road. [National Register nomination] Following his father's death, Orvilers Blodgett in 1838 consolidated the various interests in the mill then owned by his widowed mother and siblings. [Lineage of Wilson's Mills; Mansur notes on Simeon Blodgett]

It appears that the Blodgett family expanded the products of the Wilson mills. When Orvilers Blodgett sold the property to George Crosby in 1839, the deed listed a cider mill in addition to the sawmill and gristmill, and included a reference to the production of corn cracker. Also in the conveyed property were the millpond, grounds, dams, yards, and a small barn (demolished) near the mills and millpond. The title included a provision that water in Vine Brook not be dammed in a way that would injure the mills, and conveyed the right to pass around the mills to repair them. The property also included 3-1/3 acres of land around the millpond. [Lineage of Wilson's Mills; Lawrence Mansur notes, 02/16/89]

It is not clear from deed or map research just how many discrete mills occupied the site at Vine Brook during its history. Secondary sources suggest that the products of the various mills (sawmill, gristmill, cider mill, etc.) were manufactured from a single building. Photographs of Wilson's mill(s) have not been located. The only illustration of the mill, located after more than thirty years of research by Bedford town historians, is an undated (probably late 19th-century) painting of the mill by Edwin Graves Champney (1842-1899), one of the first instructors at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School.

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The painting shows the easterly side of the mill as viewed from across the millpond, built into the grade and with the stone arch bridge over Vine Brook immediately in front of the mill. From this vantage point, the mill appears to have consisted of two parts: a 1½-story main block on a raised basement, at least four bays across, with a steeply pitched gable-front roof, almost exactly centered over the falls; and a smaller one-story side-gabled wing, possibly two bays across, to the northeast (on the right side in the painting). This two-part configuration is consistent with the footprint of the mill as shown in a 1916 plan of the area (see below), as well as the findings of a land survey of the site conducted in December 2000 (see sketch map).

The Old Burlington Road – Wilson Mill area flourished as a small-scale industrial location until the mid-19th century. George Crosby (b. 1805) apparently still owned property in 1840 when a paper mill was built on the site of the old Wilson corn mill. Details about the extent of demolition to the earlier mill are not known at this time. The proprietor of this mill, which manufactured coarse paper, was James Smith Munroe. His paper mill endeavor in Bedford later enabled Munroe to establish a large factory at South Lawrence that became Munroe Felt and Paper Company. Munroe, a former Lexington town treasurer and descendant of the proprietors of Munroe Tavern in Lexington, was president of the company for many years. The loss of the Vine Brook paper mill to fire in 1846 had a significant impact on the town. The mill's closing caused Bedford's population to be reduced by one-tenth as jobs were lost, and the town reverted to a largely agricultural economy with the exception of "the manufacture of local necessities." [Brown, p. 40]

Like Jonas Gleason and Simeon Blodgett before him, James S. Munroe owned the brick-end house at 118 Wilson Road for a time. The house's long associations with the mill(s) at Vine Brook caused it to be dubbed "The Old Mill House." In 1853, David and Elizabeth Harrington of Lexington sold the forty-five acre Simeon Blodgett farm to Abraham Millett, a merchant from New York. In 1859, Millett, then of Lexington, sold the same property to James S. Munroe, who also lived in Lexington at the time of purchase. Munroe owned the house until at least 1865 [Mansur deed research; National Register nomination for 118 Wilson Road], though it seems his ownership of the property did not correspond with his tenure at the paper mill at Vine Brook.

William Ashby, an Englishman who moved to Bedford in 1847, purchased the paper mill site that year and built a mill to manufacture blinds and sashes. He sold the property in 1848 and moved to California, later returning to Bedford and purchasing the former Bacon-Fitch mill on the Shawsheen River off Old Billerica Road. Ashby conducted business at the Shawsheen River location until his death in 1872. [Brown, Genealogy, p. 2]

While the 1857 map of Middlesex County shows the Vine Brook mills as a sawmill and gristmill, county atlases published in 1875 and 1889 describe the mill as a sawmill only. The history of the mill site in the second and third quarters of the 19th century is currently unclear. Mansur's research refers to an 1874 deed that may have involved the mill site, when Charles Clark and his wife, Abbie (Davis) Clark sold property to Joseph A. Goodwin. Two years later, Goodwin married Emma F. Ashby, the daughter of William Ashby (see above). Another deed in 1878 shows Joseph and Emma Goodwin and an Ashby relative selling the same property to Henry Staples.

The Late Industrial period brought major transformations to Bedford's landscape, as the town received railroad service for the first time. Depot Square, the railroad junction located south of the village center at the intersection of South Road and Loomis Street, was created in 1877 and became the town's industrial focus. A significant addition to the industrial

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area at Depot Square was the construction of the first Bedford Lumber and Manufacturing Company building (demolished). Chartered in 1891, Bedford Lumber was the largest industry ever founded in the town by that time, employing fifty people. The company was a dealer and manufacturer of lumber, building materials such as doors, sashes, and blinds, as well as paint and glazing.

Henry Staples still owned the Vine Brook sawmill in 1889, according to the atlas of that year. The Bedford directory published the previous year (1887-1888) lists Henry N. Staples, a carpenter, on Wilson Road (then known as High Street) and Samuel Staples as the operator of the mill on the same street. Elsewhere in the same directory, the mill is described as the Staples mill. One secondary source suggests the Staples family was producing felt at the mill by 1890 [Lawrence Mansur notes, 02/16/89]. However, in the town's 1894 directory a Henry D. [*sic*] Staples is listed as the foreman of the Bedford Lumber Company near the railroad depot. If the Staples family was using the Vine Brook mill as a sawmill in the 1890s, it seems likely that the mill supplied lumber to the Bedford Lumber business at Depot Square. Other industrial uses within the historic district in the late 19th century included ice-harvesting from the millpond. [Brown, p. 40]

According to atlases of Middlesex County, two owners of the house at 118 Wilson Road were William Van Shagen (1875) and A. C. Childs (1889). Neither of these individuals is listed in Bedford directories from the late 19th century. By 1906, Arabella Lawrence owned the property. She was the wife of Frank T. Lawrence, a bookkeeper who worked in Boston. [see below] A later occupant of the house was Hugh I. Hunt, U. S. Army, Infantry, who died from wounds received in France in 1918. He was the youngest soldier and the first to die in World War I from the town of Bedford. [National Register nomination]

The houses at 130 Old Burlington Road (1924, MHC #411, Photo 2) and 138 Old Burlington Road (ca. 1900, MHC #412, Photo 3) were associated with the Hunt family for much of the 20th century. The two properties apparently constituted a single parcel until Charles Hunt divided them in 1934. The Hunts were from Everett. In the first decade of the 20th century, members of the Hunt family acquired the property from Arabella Lawrence, wife of Frank T. Lawrence, then of Chelsea. The Lawrences also owned the house at 118 Wilson Road [see above]. At one time in the early part of the 20th century, the Hunt family owned at least 73 acres on three different parcels of land in this part of Bedford. The multiple parcels and large amount of acreage involved makes for some difficulty in tracing the title. The house at 138 Old Burlington Road is the older of the two houses at this location. In 1924, Charles E. Hunt obtained a building permit to construct a dwelling on (Old) Burlington Road; this is believed to be the dwelling at 130 Old Burlington Road. The 1931 directory of Bedford shows at least five members of the Hunt family living in the vicinity: Alonzo Hunt, a carpenter, residing on Wilson Road; Charles Hunt and his wife, Lona, on (Old) Burlington Road; Charles E. Hunt, who worked in auto repair, residing on Wilson Road; and Mrs. Eliza Hunt residing on Wilson Road. The Bixler family acquired 130 Old Burlington Road in about 1941.

About the same time the Hunt family lived in the houses on Old Burlington Road, the Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett homestead at 118 Wilson Road received a Colonial Revival-style remodeling on the rear (north) elevation. After this remodeling work, the house effectively had two facades: the Georgian-style, south-facing façade viewed from Wilson Road approaching the mill, and the updated, Colonial Revival-style façade oriented north and contributing to the historic streetscape at Old Burlington Road.

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The 1906 county atlas shows the Wilson Mill Company as the owner of the mill at Vine Brook. Further information on the company has not been located. The 1916 County Commissioners plan for Burlington Road (now Old Burlington Road) shows the mill building intact at the edge of the roadway on the northwesterly side of the dam and bridge at Vine Brook. At that time, the owner of the mill was J. H. Williams *et al.* In the town of Bedford's published *Taxable Valuation* for 1921, Joseph H. Williams and others were assessed for an unnamed mill privilege and land, with a valuation of \$1200. Bedford's 1919 directory does not provide an occupation for Williams, but lists him with a Main Street (now Great Road) address. The town's 1931 directory also lists Williams with a residence on Great Road, and employed at Burditt & Williams in Boston.

The mill at Vine Brook is believed to have ended operation by about World War I [Lawrence Mansur notes, 02/16/89] or the 1920s [MHC inventory form #HA-1]. The last product manufactured at the mill is believed to have been cider. It is not clear when, and under what circumstances, the building was demolished. Until the mid-20th century, Old Burlington Road (formerly Burlington Road) was Bedford's principal route to Burlington, passing from Old Billerica Road over the Shawsheen River, then Vine Brook, heading east to the Burlington town line. In the early 1950s, a new Burlington Road (State Route 62) was reconstructed to bypass the old road to the north. The surviving section of the older road is now known as Old Burlington Road. The remainder of the old road to Burlington, extending north and east of Vine Brook, was lost to the construction of U. S. Route 3 in the early 1950s.

Recent Preservation Activity

In 1999 and 2000, the Town of Bedford acquired two important parcels of land flanking its holdings at the Wilson mill site. The first parcel encompasses 13,285 square feet on Old Burlington Road immediately southwest of the mill site, sold to the town by the heirs of John and Sophie DeVincent of Waltham. The DeVincent family developed the Whispering Pines subdivision on the south side of the millpond, across Old Burlington Road from the parcel sold to the town. The second parcel, located on Old Burlington Road, encompasses almost four acres. This property includes the entire northerly half of the millpond, and has considerable frontage on Burlington Road/Route 62. The town acquired the property from the Zion Alliance Church of Boston of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

After acquiring these parcels, the town subsequently applied for and received a Historic Landscape Preservation Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to provide matching funds for preparing a National Register district nomination for the area, as well as a landscape and public use plan for the mill site. The goals of the project are to provide permanent protection for the site, enhance the site's appearance, and promote general public appreciation and utilization.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Bedford are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Native American sites in the district may contain information that identifies the temporal and functional variability of sites within the Shawsheen River drainage. Native sites in the district may contain information that identifies site types near upland tributary streams during different periods of settlement and their relationship to larger, possibly base camp type sites located along the Shawsheen River. Ancient Native sites in the district may be characterized

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by smaller, short-term occupations with specialized functions that focused on the exploitation of specific floral and/or faunal resources and lithic source materials, possibly located in glacial till. Detailed analysis of features, functional categories of artifacts, lithic source materials and the internal configuration of archaeological sites may contribute important information to the above questions.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of a small crossroads community that evolved from the 17th through 20th centuries. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help identify the complete landuse history of the district including its residential, agricultural and industrial components. Archaeological research may help unravel the complex history of industrial change that characterized the Wilson Mill Complex. Archaeological research combined with documentary sources can be used to identify the temporal and functional associations of existing structures at the Wilson Mill Site and their relationship, if any, to earlier mills at the same location. In this manner, existing mill remains can be identified and their integrity evaluated. Earlier mill structures identified within an archaeological context may also be identified and their integrity evaluated. Archaeological sources may contribute important information relating to the location and architectural details of specific mills through time and the extent that the same structures were used for different functions and earlier structures incorporated into later designs.

Questions relating to the integrity of the Wilson Mill Site increase with earlier occupations at the site. Successive periods of ownership and changes in manufacturing at the mill have probably affected the site's integrity, however, greater impacts have resulted from the 1846 fire that closed the mill and later roadway construction in the 20th century. The above information combined with the lack of knowledge of what manufacturing activities were occurring at the mill and where they were occurring presently prohibit the use of criterion D with this nomination. The mill apparently closed about the World War I or the 1920s at a time when cider was "believed to be" manufactured. Mill ownership at that time is poorly documented. The history of the mill site during the second and third quarters of the 19th century also remains unclear. The latter problem is especially critical since if Criterion D were used, that significance would be based on mill use during the latter 19th and early 20th century, the probable period that the visible mill remains can be associated with. Given the above information, a poor level of documentation exists for the period that the visible mill remains can be associated. Identification of the foundation north and east of Burlington Road and the larger building that existed on the 1916 County map are also a problem, further contributing to identification and interpretative problems of archaeological resources in the district. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the previous foundation may have functioned as an ice house. Archaeological evidence may exist to test that hypothesis.

In addition to sorting out the complex history of industrial change at the Wilson Mill Site, archaeological resources may also contribute important information relating to the manufacturing processes, products and technologies in use at each mill. Any information relating to the site's use as a First Period mill would be highly significant. Archaeological information may be obtained that contributes to the layout of the site, size of the building(s), and the methods of harnessing hydro power from Vine Brook. The mill's use as a grist mill has been documented; however, the date its function was expanded to include a saw mill is not precisely known. Archaeological data may contribute information that indicates when the saw mill was constructed, the technology that was used and whether it functioned contemporaneously with the grist mill, possibly on a seasonal basis. Important archaeological information may also exist that documents the location and structure of the dam, power canals and type of water wheel associated with the early mills. Structural evidence may also be present indicating how water power was shared between co-existing mill operations.

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Archaeological resources may also contribute important information that documents structural and technological changes at the Wilson Mill during the 18th and early 19th century as grist and sawmill operations continued at the site. Important changes may have occurred as ownership within the Wilson family changed and as the mills passed out of the Wilson Family in ca. 1778. Structural evidence and archaeological features may also document changes that were made in the mill and its water power system as its function was changed to a paper mill in 1840. Important archaeological evidence should also exist for the catastrophic fire that destroyed the mill in 1846. In 1847, the Wilson Mill was rebuilt as a saw mill that manufactured blinds and sashes. Historical and structural evidence may exist that documents the extent that components of the earlier mill and its water power system were salvaged from the 1846 fire and reused for the new mill. Important information relating to mid-19th century paper mill technology may also be obtained through archaeological resources. Archaeological resources may also document when the mill was demolished. The mill's function as a saw mill is indicated on atlases of Bedford as late as 1906 and the site was reportedly used as a cider mill about the time of World War I. The mill was definitely demolished by 1947. During the Wilson Mill's mid-19th to early 20th century use, any information relating to its power supply may be especially important. Documentary and/or structural evidence may be obtained that indicates whether the hydrological resources of Vine Brook continued as the primary source of power or was replaced by water-powered turbines or steam power.

Any archaeological information that survives in the district associated with the John Wilson Homestead may also contribute important information related to Bedford (Billerica's) early settlement, lifeways, agriculture and architecture in the 17th century. Important social, cultural, and economic information relating to Bedford's 18th century settlement and the Wilson Mill may also be obtained from structural evidence and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) in the vicinity of the extant Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead (c. 1840) at 118 Wilson Road. Artifacts and structural evidence may document any changes in the home and the locations of barns and outbuildings present during its period of occupation. This information combined with the location and detailed analysis of occupational related features may help document the layout of the homestead/farm and changes in its agricultural use. Detailed analysis of occupational related features may also contribute important information on the lives of the homes inhabitants that included owners of the Wilson Mill.

While the district contains known historic archaeological industrial resources and potential residential, agricultural and industrial resources, problems relating to their identification and integrity limit their interpretative value as archaeological resources. Additional historical research combined with a research program of archaeological survey and testing is needed to completely document the Wilson Mill Site and other potential archaeological resources in the district. Information obtained from the above research may qualify archaeological resources at the Wilson Mill and the district to be significant under criterion D. The above information would contribute to the site and district's National Register significance and serve as a detailed management tool to ensure the protection and good stewardship of this valuable archaeological resource.

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Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
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Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 9 acres (land and water)

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|--|---------|----------|
| 1. | Zone | Easting | Northing | 3. | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2. | Zone | Easting | Northing | 4. | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| | | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet | | |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 2003

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple owners

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)

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(end)

10. Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	19	315610	4707720	Reading 15-minute quadrangle
B	19	315680	4707600	Reading 15-minute quadrangle
C	19	315460	4707500	Boston North 15-minute quadrangle
D	19	315390	4707640	Reading 15-minute quadrangle
E	19	315300	4707490	Boston North 15-minute quadrangle
F	19	315230	4707490	Boston North 15-minute quadrangle
G	19	315290	4707640	Reading 15-minute quadrangle

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated district is shown on the accompanying details of the Town of Bedford's assessor's map. The district encompasses approximately nine acres of land and water in the vicinity of the Old Burlington Road intersection with Wilson Road. The district is distinguished from contemporary residential construction to the east, south, and west. Burlington Road/Route 62 and its interchange with U. S. Route 3 form the district's northern boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes twelve parcels, in whole or in part, that comprise the surviving historic cultural resources associated with the Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District. Three parcels in their entirety are associated with the three historic residences in the district (118 Wilson Road, 130 Old Burlington Road, and 138 Old Burlington Road). Three parcels in their entirety are owned by the Town of Bedford and encompass the mill site, associated structures, and the northerly half of the millpond. Portions of six residential lots on Old Burlington Road and Ledgewood Drive are included in the district solely for their water acreage, as collectively these lots comprise the southern part of the millpond. The district boundary runs along the southern shore of the millpond and specifically excludes any other acreage or the contemporary residential construction associated with these six lots.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road District
Bedford (Middlesex County), Massachusetts

Section number photo Page

Photographs

Historic Name: Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Location: Old Burlington Road and Wilson Road, Bedford, Massachusetts
Photographer: K. K. Broomer
Date: April 2001
Location of Negatives: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission, Bedford, Massachusetts

Photo #	View
1	Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road, view N/NW
2	Hunt-Bixler House, 130 Old Burlington Road, view NW
3	Hunt House, 138 Old Burlington Road, and DeVincent Monument, view W/SW
4	Wilson Mill Site, Vine Brook, with Burlington Road/Route 62 bridge (upper left), view NW
5	Wilson Mill Site, Vine Brook: stone-lined channeled streambed (center), spillway (left), and Burlington Road/Route 62 bridge (background), view NW
6	Old Burlington Road bridge over Vine Brook/Dam and Millpond, view N



Bacon - Gleason - Blodgett Homestead, 118 Wilson Road
Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Massachusetts (Middlesex County)

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View N/NW on Wilson Road

Photo 1 of 6



Hunt - Bixler House, 130 Old Burlington Road
Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Middlesex County, Mass.

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View NW

Photo 2 of 6



Hunt House, 138 Old Burlington Road, and Devincenzi Monument
Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Middlesex County, Mass.

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View W/SW

Photo 3 of 6



Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Middlesex County, Mass.

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View NW

Photo 4 of 6



stone-lined channeled streambed (center)

spillway (left)

Route 62/Burlington Road bridge (background)

Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Middlesex County, Mass.

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View NW

Photo 5 of 6



Old Burlington Road Bridge over Vine Brook / Dam and Millpond
Historic Wilson Mill - Old Burlington Road District
Bedford, Middlesex County, Mass.

KK Broomer

April 2001

Neg: Bedford Historic Preservation Commission

View N

Photo 6 of 6

HISTORIC WILSON MILL -
OLD BURLINGTON ROAD DISTRICT
BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASS.
TOWN OF BEDFORD
ASSESSORS MAP 48
SHEET 1 OF 2 FOR DISTRICT
JUNE 2001





HISTORIC WILSON MILL -
 OLD BURLINGTON ROAD DISTRICT
 BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASS.
 TOWN OF BEDFORD
 ASSESSORS MAP 39
 SHEET 2 OF 2 FOR DISTRICT
 JUNE 2001

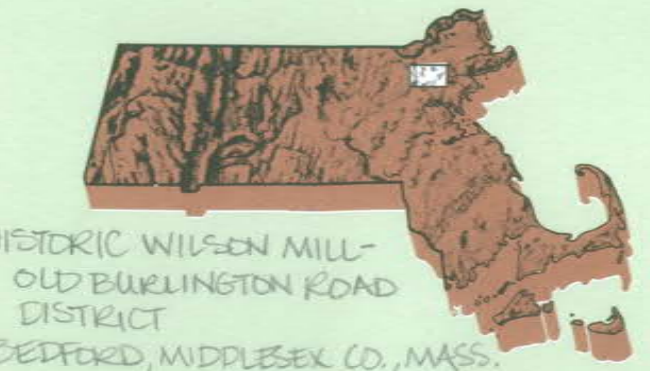
SEE ALSO MAP 48

AS AMENDED THROUGH JUNE 1997



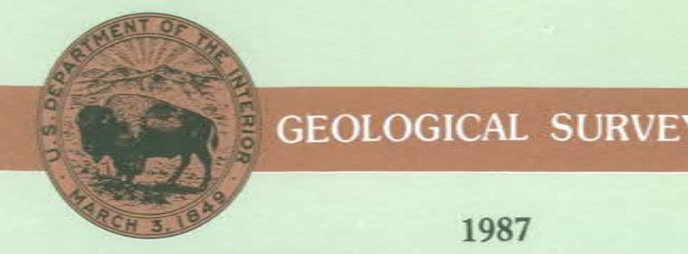
Reading MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Wilmington 1965 and Reading 1966 1:24,000-scale maps
 Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
 Universal Transverse Mercator
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
4	13.1234
6	19.6851
8	26.2468
10	32.8085

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

Declination	1	2	3
1	1	2	3
2	4	5	6
3	7	8	9

1 Lowell
 2 Lawrence
 3 Ipswich
 4 Billerica
 5 Salem
 6 Maynard
 7 Boston North
 8 Lynn



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road; trail
- Route marker: Interstate, U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - City township, precinct, census
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation; small park
 - Land grant with monument; found section corner
 - U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line; location approximate
 - Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Minor city; prospect; well or mine; tower; section corner
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine; lava; sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids; large and small; falls, large and small
- Swamp; marsh
- Submerged mark; land subject to controlled inundation
- Wooded; scattered trees
- Scrub; mangrove
- Order; viewshed

HISTORIC WILSON MILL-
 OLD BURLINGTON ROAD
 DISTRICT
 BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX CO.,
 MASS.
 READING AND BOSTON NORTH
 QUADS
 1:25000
 A 19 315610 4707720
 B 19 315650 4707600
 C 19 315460 4707500
 D 19 315240 4707400
 E 19 315300 4707490
 F 19 315230 4707490
 G 19 315210 4707640

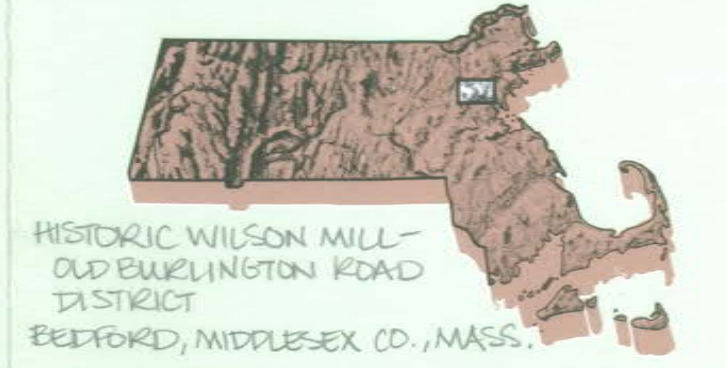
HISTORIC WILSON MILL-
OLD BURLINGTON ROAD
DISTRICT
BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX CO.,
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READING AND EOSTEN NORTH
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1:25000
A 19 315610 4707720
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D 19 315390 4707400
E 19 315300 4707490
F 19 315230 4707490
G 19 315290 4707640

BOSTON NORTH, MASSACHUSETTS

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

**Boston North
MASSACHUSETTS**

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1985.
Supersedes Boston North and Lexington 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1971.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 13272 (1982).
This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19.
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained zone, 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 4 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
There may be precise subdivisions within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTINENTAL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
DEPTH CLUES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

CONVERSION TABLE	DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS																																		
<table border="1"> <tr><th>Meters</th><th>Feet</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>3.2808</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>6.5617</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>9.8425</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>13.1234</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>16.4042</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>19.6850</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>22.9659</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>26.2467</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>29.5276</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>32.8084</td></tr> </table>	Meters	Feet	1	3.2808	2	6.5617	3	9.8425	4	13.1234	5	16.4042	6	19.6850	7	22.9659	8	26.2467	9	29.5276	10	32.8084		<table border="1"> <tr><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> </table>	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

1 Billerica
2 Reading
3 Salem
4 Maynard
5 Lynn
6 Framingham
7 Boston South
8 Hull

ISBN 0-607-23443-1
9 780607 234435

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road; trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
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- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
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 - Incorporated city, village, town
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 - U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
 - Range, township; section line: location approximate
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 - Windmill; water well; spring
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 - Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
 - Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
 - Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
 - Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
 - Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
 - Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
 - Scrub; meadow
 - Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson Mill--Old Burlington Road District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/23/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/08/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/22/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000792

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:	Y	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C

REVIEWER Patricia Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 8/18/2003

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

I, Sandra Kendall and my sister Gail Hunt, can not attend this meeting today due to other commitments. We are therefore asking Charles Clark to represent us in this matter today.

My sister and I are the current owners of the property located at 138 Olde Burlington Road. Our grandfather, Charles E. Hunt, started construction on his home in 1919 when his daughter, my mother Evelyn E. Hunt, was 3 years old. Charles, his wife Lona and 4 children lived in the house for many years in only 4 rooms on the first floor until my grandfather could scrape together enough material and time to complete the house as it now stands. As you can see from the pictures here today this house has no historical value to the Town of Bedford and by all rights should be raised and reconstructed. This, however, is not a possibility. This home is our heritage. It is full of memories, love, laughter, sometimes sadness and loss. This home has meaning to Charles and Lona's family NOT the Town of Bedford or the State of Massachusetts. As the owner's of this home it is our right to tear it down, add or remodel as we see fit as long as we abide by the current State and local Building Codes. It is not the right of a few elitist in the Town of Bedford to tell us or anyone what they can do with their property. If the Town of Bedford or the State of Massachusetts wishes to tell individual property owners what they can and can not do with their property perhaps they should purchase the property. If my grandfather were alive today he would be appalled that anyone would want to consider his home, held together with bailing wire and bubble gum, of any historical value to the Town or the State.

The Hunts have a long history in Bedford. My great-great grandfather Alonzo Hunt and his wife owned what is now the Abbott house on Wilson Road, my great Uncle Hugh I. Hunt is the Hunt in the "Anthony, Hunt, Hamilton" post of the VFW located on Great Road. My grandmother, Lona Hunt, was an active member of the Republican Party in Bedford, the Daughter's of The American Revolution and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. My Mother was active in the Bedford Golden Age until her death in February of 2003. My daughter and my two granddaughters are now residing in the "family homestead". If our forebears knew what was being done in the name of "historical preservation" they would turn over in their graves. This is not anything but the taking of property rights by a few misguided people. Be careful, it may be your rights that the next do gooder wants to take.

Remember: ONCE THE CAMEL HAS HIS NOSE UNDER THE TENT IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE HE HAS TAKEN OVER THE TENT.

Thank you,

Sandra E. Kendall
Gail B. Hunt.

Subject:
138 Old Burlington Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125


RE: Proposed Wilson Mill Historic District

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am the owner of the parcel of land number 3 identified on Map 48, which is located within the boundaries of the proposed Wilson Mill Historic District in Bedford, Massachusetts.

I hereby object to the proposed Wilson Mill Historic District being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

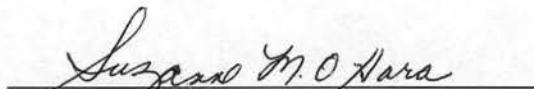
Very truly yours,


Sandra E. Kendall

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The above named appeared before me on JUNE 9, 2003.

County of: Worcester Date: 6/9/2003


Notary Public Commission expires: 7/18/2008

Subject:
138 Old Burlington Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

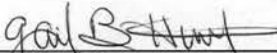
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Very truly yours,

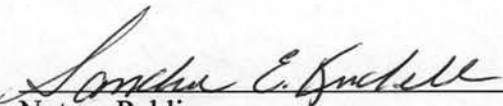


Gail B. Hunt

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The above named appeared before me on June 9, 2003.

County of: Norfolk Date: 4/9/03



Notary Public

Commission expires: 3/12/2007

RECEIVED

JUN 09 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

135 Old Burlington Road
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730

June 2, 2003

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Re: Proposed Wilson Mill Historic District

Ladies and Gentlemen:

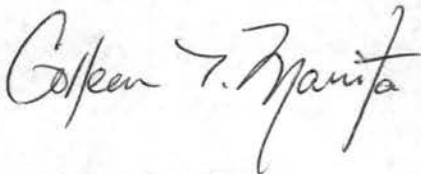
We are the owners of two parcels, Parcels Nos. 54 and 55, identified on Map 48, which are located within the boundaries of the proposed Wilson Mill Historic District in Bedford, Massachusetts.

We hereby object to the proposed Wilson Mill Historic District being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,



Mark S. Manita
Colleen T. Manita

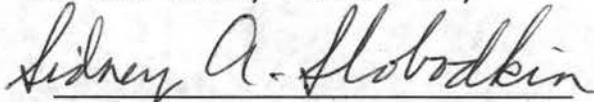


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

June 2, 2003

Then personally appeared the above-named Mark S. Manita and Colleen T. Manita, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument by them subscribed to be their free act and deed, before me,



Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Sidney A. Slobodkin
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires May 31, 2007



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 2, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Historic Wilson Mill – Old Burlington Road HD, Bedford (Middlesex), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in this Certified Local Government community were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of objection have been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Donald Corey, Bedford Preservation Commission
Richard T. Reed, Town Administrator
Gordon Feltman, Board of Selectmen
Kathleen Kelly Broome, Preservation Consultant
Richard Joly, Planning Director

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc