

MAY 22 1989

611

AREA

FORM NO.

F

343

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

Address 6 Mystic Valley Parkway

Historic Name Robert Bacon House

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

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1830

Source architect's sketches, other surviving construction documents

Style Federal/Greek Revival

Architect John Kutts of Boston

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, brick en

Outbuildings 2 / NC - Garages

Major Alterations (with dates) deck

balustrade, c. 1900

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date _____

Acreage .80 acre 17-0001

Setting Suburban residential along

north eastern shore of Upper Mystic Lake, where Aberjona River empties into the Mystic Lake.

Recorded by Allen Hill, Carol Ely

Organization Winchester Historical Comm

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

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



UTM REFERENCE 19.3 23760.47 01020

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Robert Bacon House is important as a rare surviving local example of a high style residence which exemplifies the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival style. The Bacon House is further significant as the work of John Kutts, a well-known Boston builder-architect of the early nineteenth century; the architect's drawings & plans as well as bills and contracts related to the construction survive, providing valuable insights into building practices of the period.

In addition the Bacon house is notable for its association with Robert Bacon, a prosperous mill owner. The Bacon House therefore meets Criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Bacon House (c.1830) is an important and rare local example of the Transitional Federal-Greek Revival mode. It is Winchester's only high-style example of this type, and is further significant because it can be attributed to the builder-architect John Kutts of Boston, and because the carpenter's bill and plasterer's contract as well as the architect's original drawings survive.

John Kutts was a Boston builder-architect, an active contemporary of Edward Shaw, Gridley Bryant, Richard Bond and Ammi B. Young. All are listed as architects in the Boston directories of the time, indicating a prospering profession. John Kutts is also known as one of the unsuccessful competitors in the competitions for the Albany city hall and for Girard College. In addition the house on Beacon Hill at 74 Pinckney Street is known to have been designed by Kutts, and built by Weeks &

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

In 1825 most of the Symmes land west of the Aberjona River was sold to Robert Bacon of Boston. The Symmes land was part of the original land grant of over 300 acres made in 1636 to the Reverend Zechariah Symmes of the Charlestown church. With the 1825 sale of the Symmes land went the mill privilege on the Aberjona, which Bacon used for many years in his business of making felt for hats. It was also in 1825 that Bacon Street was cut through from Main to Church Streets, the first highway across the old Symmes farm.

Robert Bacon came to Winchester (then a part of old Medford) in 1824 from Boston, to establish a felting mill, in the former Symmes mill on the lower Aberjona River. The felt and wadding factory complex was in operation until 1951. The Bacon mills were an important early employer in Winchester. The Bacon House was built circa 1830 on high ground overlooking the factory, river, and worker's housing, an ensemble of buildings which came to be known as "Baconville."

Robert Bacon controlled several patented improvements in felting machinery, to which he added innovations of his own. In one year the Aberjona mill is said to have formed some 85,000 hat bodies, in addition to producing a quantity of felt for other purposes.

There were two mills beside the lower Aberjona, and both came to be owned by Bacon. Both are said to have been burned in 1843.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Chapman, H., History of Winchester, 1936.
McIntyre, A.M., Beacon Hill, A Walking Tour, 1975, Little, Brown & Co., p.89, 117
Ross, Marjorie D., The Book of Boston: The Federal Period, Hastings House Publishers, 1961, p. 116, 117.
Map of Baconville, Winchester Archival Center. Map dated 1909.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester	Form No: 343
Property Name: Robert Bacon House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE continued:

Perrin. It is a small brick house of three-and-a-half stories, built in 1829, and unusual in that there is an agreement filed with the deed noting the type of construction (to include a brick sidewalk), the prices of wallpapers (some with borders), the black marble fireplace mantelpieces (of the same type used in the Robert Bacon house), and other details.

The Bacon House is a two-and-a-half story residence based on a rectangular plan with a symmetrical five-bay facade organization. The brick end wall rise to form a parapet wall with double end chimneys. The center entrance has transom and sidelights with leaded glass tracery. The entrance is set within a one-story Doric portico with fluted columns and a deck balustrade (the deck balustrade is probably a later addition). The window placement is symmetrical with a sash configuration of six-over-six. Federal, Greek Revival and later nineteenth century detail are preserved on the interior.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued:

They were soon rebuilt, but Bacon then leased them to a variety of small industries, including a cotton batting factory run by Caleb Mills; a sash and blind shop; a print works; and a mahogany sawing mill.

CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP:

1. Ann Bacon 1830-1903
2. Edward A. Smith 1904-1919
3. James F. and Caroline Jackson 1924-1944
4. John K. Colony 1947-1977

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bacon, Robert, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000611

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/5/89 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

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

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Robert Bacon House

6 Mystic Valley Parkway 1/88

Winchester, Ma. MRA

MHC Inv. # 343

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303