

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

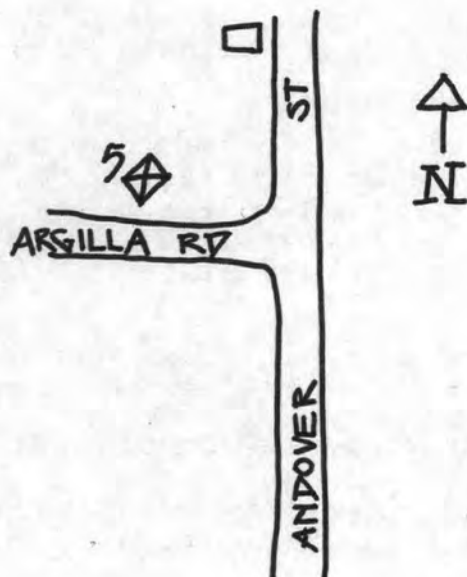
Form no.

45

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.

45: Lawrence Quad, 1:25000
19/323405/4723550



1. Town ANDOVER

Address 5 Argilla Road

Name Abbot-Baker House

Present use Residential

Present owner White, Sidney P.

3. Description:

Date ca. 1685

Source Historic Houses of Andover

Style First Period

Architect ---

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
barn, attached

Outbuildings (describe) carriage shed

Other features 2½ stories; gable roof
w/integral leanto; center chimney;
5 bay facade w/small 6/6 windows; small
gabled center vestibule; large barn
also has leanto; faces south; rear ell,
secondary door on each side

Altered Windows Date 18th C.

Moved --- Date ---

5. Lot size: Map 93, Parcel 5

One acre or less x Over one acre ---

Approximate frontage 265'

Approximate distance of building from street
50'

6. Recorded by W. Frontiero

Organization Andover Historical Comm.

Date August 7, 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Thomas Abbot
Original use residential
Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal

Conservation

Recreation

The Abbot-Baker House is significant (1) for its early and continued associations with the Abbot family, farmers prominent in the founding and development of Andover, (2) for its association with a turn-of-the 19th century physician, and (3) as an excellent example of First Period architecture in Andover. The property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and setting, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

No. 5 Argilla Rd is thought to have been built ca. 1685 for Thomas Abbot, a farmer. Thomas (1666-1728) was a son of George Abbot (who arrived in Andover with the first group of settlers) and a brother of Benjamin Abbot (who built the house next door at 9 Andover Street). Thomas is described in the Abbot genealogy as "a strict Puritan, he taught his children to reverence the Sabbath, and keep it holy, and to make the Bible their only rule of faith and practice."¹ He and his wife Hannah Gray (m. 1697) had ten children. Thomas Sr. sold the homestead (containing 20 acres with buildings) to his son Thomas Jr., also a farmer, in 1723. Thomas Jr. (1699-1774) lived here with his wife Elizabeth Ballard (m. 1725) and their ten children. The genealogy remembers the second Thomas as "useful in the town, guardian of orphans, observer of events, and re recorded them in his almanac, respected for his piety and worth."² Thomas was succeeded on the homestead by his son, a third Thomas (1729-1776), who was married (1756) to Lydia Blunt. The last Thomas left 200 acres of land and a substantial personal, all valued at about 860 pounds; his wife was appointed executor of the estate, an uncommon procedure. Twenty years later, in 1797, Lydia finally sold the homestead.

The buyer was Symonds Baker, a physician. Baker (1736-1815) lived here with his second wife, Lydia Holt (m. 1766). Probate records provide an interesting comparison between this "country" doctor and his more sophisticated contemporary, Abiel Pearson.* Baker was succeeded by son Symonds Epes Baker and his wife Sarah Holt. The farm is now in possession of the fourth generation of Symonds Epes' descendants.

The building is distinguished by its very simplicity. A broad facade with small unornamented windows and doorway, center chimney, and integral leanto comprise the major architectural features. A still large estate and southward orientation **

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Essex County Registry of Deeds, Lawrence and Salem (627/370; 57/142; Probate Docket Nos. George F. Baker (1907), David Baker (1888), Symonds Epes Baker (1819), Symonds Baker (1815), 142)

Andover Historical Society Vertical Files, "Baker Family"

* (see 33 High Street)

** complete the near-perfect setting.

Footnotes

1) Genealogical Register of the Abbot Family, p.83

2) Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Town of Andover Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Lower Shawsheen Railroad Bridge

Keeper

Determined eligible
W.H. Graham 6.10.82

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

Patrick Andrews 6/8/82

2. Upper Shawsheen Railroad Bridge

Keeper

Determined eligible
William H. Graham 6.10.82

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

6/8/82 Patrick Andrews

3. Andover Village Industrial District (92)

Keeper

Bruce H. Day 10.7.82

Substantive Review

Attest

- NR
div 4. Bradlee School

Keeper

William H. Graham 6.10.82

~~Attest~~

5. Abbot Tavern

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

- NR
div 6. Central Street District

Keeper

Bruce H. Day 10/7/82

Attest

7. Abbot, J. T., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

8. Ballardvale District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Day 10.7.82

Attest

9. Abbot-Baker House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

10. Abbot-Battles House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/10/82

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Abbot-Baker House (Town of Andover MPA) Working No. 4/28/82-283
State, County: MA, Essex Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983
Federal Agency: _____ Date Due: 5/27/82 - 6/12/82

- ____ resubmission
____ nomination by person or local government
____ owner objection
____ appeal

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/10/82
Entered in the _____ RETURN _____
National Register _____ REJECT _____
photos _____
maps _____

Substantive Review: ____ sample ____ request ____ appeal ____ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
____ see continuation sheet

omination returned for: ____ technical corrections cited below
____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	____ original site
____ good	____ ruins	____ moved date _____
____ fair	____ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ____ summary paragraph
____ completeness
____ clarity
____ alterations/integrity
____ dates
____ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



5 Argilla Rd.

Abbot-Baker House

Town of Andover MRA, Ma

OCT 1980

OCT 1980

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000298