

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 1 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 14 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **\*\*** BACON-GLEASON-BLODGETT HOMESTEAD  
AND/OR COMMON Old Mill House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 118 Wilson Road *E of Bedford*  
CITY, TOWN Bedford *vic* VICINITY OF Boston  
STATE Massachusetts CODE 01730 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 017

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME John Tucker Abbott and Anne Elizabeth Abbott

STREET & NUMBER 118 Wilson Road

CITY, TOWN Bedford VICINITY OF Massachusetts 01730

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER 40 Thorndike Street

CITY, TOWN Cambridge STATE Massachusetts 02141

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE May 1966  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historic Commission

CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts 02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead, or Old Mill House, lies in the eastern portion of the town of Bedford, near the Burlington town line and Route 62. It is a pre-Revolutionary brick-end transitional Georgian dwelling situated on a one acre corner lot upon a hill with open lawns, shrubbery, and evergreen plantings. From the northeast corner of the property, a dead-end stretch of Old Burlington Road leads approximately 200 feet to the historic site of the 1680 John Wilson corn mill. To the west of the house the land slopes downward past an old stone wall into a small pasture with boundary plantings of lilac trees, white pine, apple, and evergreen trees. The immediate vicinity is residential; it is primarily contemporary Cape Cod & ranch houses on 1 acre lots. The Homestead is approximately 1 1/2 miles from the center of town.

Architecturally, the house is an early New England transitional Georgian style. It has brick-ends, is two storey, and contains eight rooms. It has a low lip roof with four tall inside end chimneys, two on each brick end. The massive foundation is of field stone with rough granite facing blocks. The facade is five bays wide. The front entrance, facing south, has a centrally located six-panel crusader door with a simple fanlight and framed by simple pilasters. Above the door is a cornice with dentil molding, and fanlight with arch & keystone molding. Two of the front steps have recently been replaced with granite. The bottom step is an old millstone from the nearby John Wilson corn mill. The east and west elevations are brick; the north and south are clapboarded. The original boards have lapped joints, and butt to the brick ends. Projecting from the first floor center of the north elevation is a small enclosed, hip-roofed porch. The original 16 over 8 fenestration has been replaced with 12 over 12. The two brick ends are in excellent condition. They are constructed of small 6 3/4 inches long by 3 inches deep by 1 7/8 inches high bricks laid in common bond. The 1 1/2 storey clapboarded wing extending from the westerly brick end has been converted into a "cobnial" style kitchen and laundry, while retaining the original exterior features.

The interior floor plan is a simple two room deep rectangle with a central corridor. The interior consists of a moderate sized hall leading to a spiral staircase and two sitting rooms, each with a brick fireplace, wide ceiling cornices, flat pine wainscotting, and random width hard pine flooring. In the rear there are two kitchens of similar layout, each containing large brick fireplaces, and the same style wainscotting as appears in the sitting rooms. A small rear hallway contains a staircase leading to the second floor composed of four identical bedrooms, each with a small fireplace and side closet. From the enclosed porch on the northern elevation, an inside door enters into a hall containing three inside doors opening into the northeast and northwest rooms and down to the cellar. The cellar retains its original packed earth floor.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Abbott, John T. & Anne E. The Finding of the Bacon- Gleason- Blodgett Homestead. 11pp MS typed article. Bedford: 1963.
- Brown, Abram English History of the Town of Bedford. Bedford: 1891.
- Brown, Louise K. Wilderness Town. Bedford: 1968.
- Brown, Louise K. A Revolutionary Town. Bedford: Phoenix Publishing 1975.
- Hazen, Henry A. History of Billerica. Boston: A. Williams and Co. 1883. (CONTD)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,1,5	3,2,0	4,7,0,7	560	4,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY John T. Abbot, Bedford Historical Commission

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE October 14, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston STATE Mass. 01730

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE 10/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/14/97

DATE 3.18.77

Property Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead

*Middlesex*

State Mass. Working Number 11.1.76.4415

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 6  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

KP

*OK 11.1.76*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept*

*B. Grovans*

*11/15/76*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*Accept*

*M. J. Hurry*

*12-4-76*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept  
Cole*

*alt 2/21/77*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Hunt  
for Hunt  
3.18.77*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

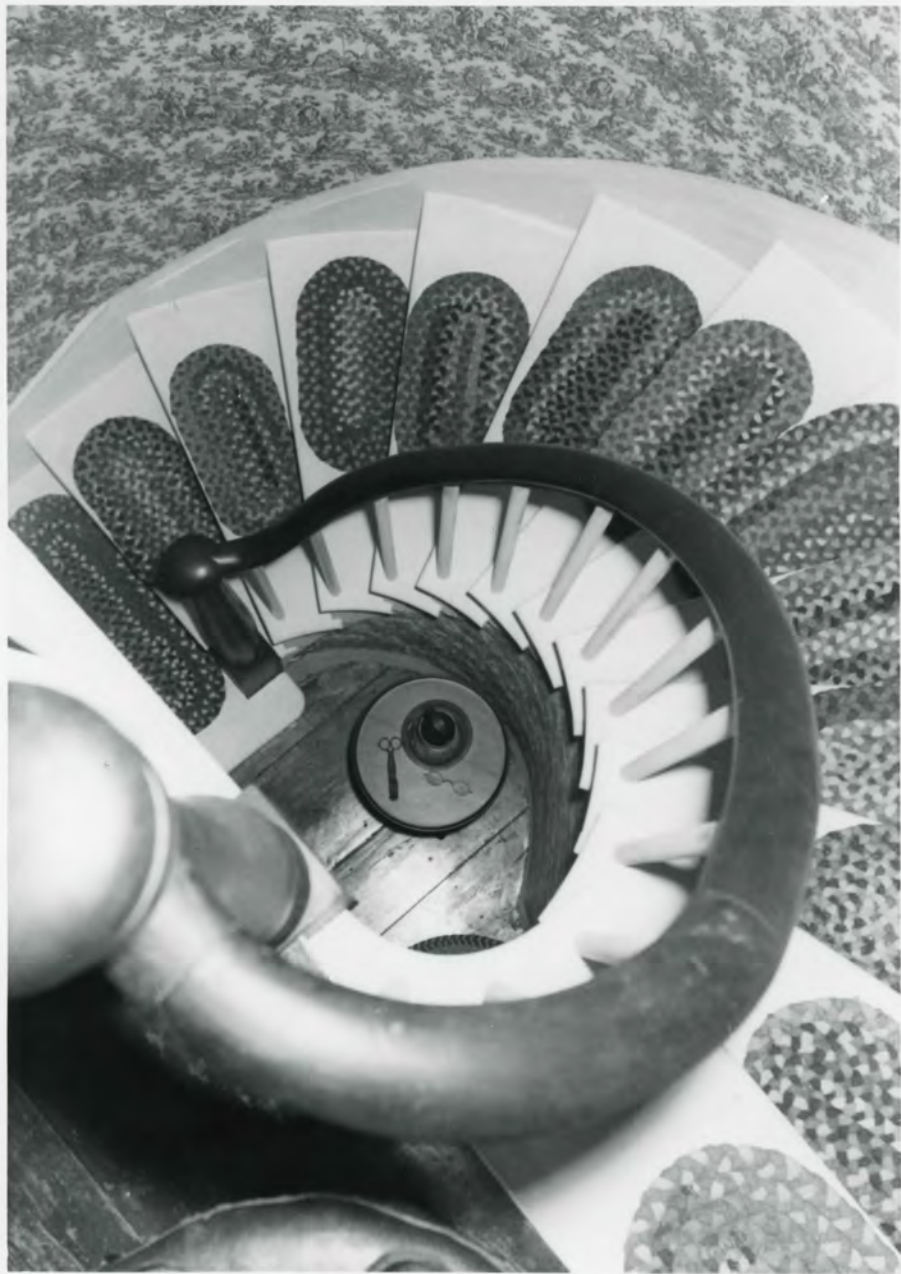
Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 14 1977

Federal Register Entry 5-3-77

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead

Bedford, Massachusetts

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Property owner:

118 Wilson Road, Bedford, Mass.

PHOTO NO.: 91066

DESCRIPTION: Interior view looking down  
front hall spiral staircase from landing;  
showing hand made braided treads.

NOV. 1 1976

APR 14 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Photo #7



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead  
Bedford, Massachusetts.

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Property owner:  
118 Wilson Road, Bedford, Mass.

PHOTO NO.: 2 *16*

DESCRIPTION: Front facade,

South view, looking north.

NOV 1 1976

*DOE* APR 1 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Photo #2*



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead  
Bedford, Massachusetts.

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Property owner:  
118 Wilson Road, Bedford, Mass.

PHOTO NO.: 3 *186*

DESCRIPTION: Front entrance doorway,  
millstone step, brick walk.  
South view, looking north.

NOV 1 1976

*00E* APR 14 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Photo #3 6E*



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead  
Bedford, Massachusetts.

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Property owner:

118 Wilson Road, Bedford, Mass.

PHOTO NO.: 4 of 6

DESCRIPTION: South facade and east elevation,  
looking northwest from Wilson Road  
showing front entrance gate

NOV 1 1976

OJE APR 14 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Photo #4



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead  
Bedford, Massachusetts

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1965

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Property owner:

118 Wilson Road, Bedford, Mass.

NOV 1 1976

PHOTO NO.: 5 *46*

DESCRIPTION: Northeast view, looking south-  
west from corner of Wilson Rd. and  
Old Burlington Rd.; showing wing on right.

*DOE* APR 14 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Photo #5*



Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead  
Bedford, Massachusetts

PHOTO CREDIT: John T. Abbott

DATE OF PHOTO: 1968

NEGATIVE FILLED AT: Property owner:

118 Wilson Rd., Bedford, Mass.

PHOTO NO.: 6 *46*

DESCRIPTION: Rear elevation, looking south-  
east from Old Burlington Rd.; showing  
wing from west brick elevation. **NOV 1 1976**

*00E* APR 14 1977

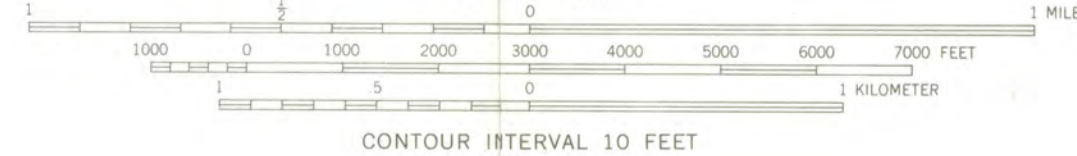
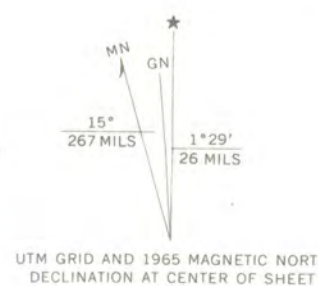
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Photo #6*



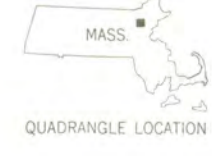
Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett  
Homestead,  
Bedford, Mass.  
UTM Coordinate:  
19/315 320/4707 460

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942. Revised 1965  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



APR 14 1977

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WILMINGTON, MASS.  
N4230-W7107.5/7.5  
1965  
AMS 6769 II SW-SERIES V814





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 14 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead	Bedford Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Paul Tsongas  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880 MMOTT/djb 4/18/77

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/15/76  
 Reviewer INITIALS: BG

NR DOE APR 14 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Bacon-Gleason-Blodgett Homestead

OTHER NAMES: Old Mill House

**LOCATION:**

STREET & NUMBER 118 Wilson Rd., E of Bedford  
 CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF Bedford CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th  
 STATE Massachusetts 025 COUNTY Middlesex code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):  
 NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**FEATURES:**

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
- Substantially intact-1	✓ Substantially intact-2	✓ Substantially intact-3
✓ unknown - 4	- unknown - 5	- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7	- not applicable - 8	- Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	✓ EXCELLENT	- DETERIORATED	- UNALTERED	✓ ORIGINAL SITE
	- GOOD	- RUINS	✓ ALTERED	- MOVED
	- FAIR	- UNEXPOSED	- Reconstructed	- Unknown
		- Unexcavated	- Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- House

now- House

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

- |                           |                |                          |                       |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| - ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | - CONSERVATION | - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | - RELIGION            | - entertainment  |
| - ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | - ECONOMICS    | - LAW/Gov't/politics     | - SCIENCE             | - health         |
| - AGRICULTURE             | - EDUCATION    | - LITERATURE             |                       | - recreation     |
| ✓ ARCHITECTURE            | - ENGINEERING  | - MILITARY               | - SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | ✓ settlement     |
| - ART                     | EXPLORATION    | - MUSIC                  |                       | - socio/cultural |
| - COMMERCE                | ✓ INDUSTRY     | - PHILOSOPHY             | - TRANSPORTATION      | - urban & commun |
| - COMMUNICATIONS          | - INVENTION    | - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | - OTHER (SPECIFY)     | planning         |

**Claims**

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO  
*only house of its period in Bedford*

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *transitional geyer elements*

architect/m.builder: *unknown*

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

events

*John Wilson - operated mill here, 1680, around which town grew.  
Nathaniel Bacon - original owner, 1740-1794 - Indian fighter  
Thomas Bacon - owner, 1794-1795 - son of above; Militiaman  
Jonas Gleason - 3rd owner, 1795-1815 - operated mill (Wilson)  
Simon Blodgett - owner? - operated farm & mill*

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *c. 1740*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1680 - c. 1859*

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

*1-.9*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*Frame, clapboarding, brick ends; 2-stories, rectangular, hipped roof, paired interior end chimneys, front center entrance with fanlight flanked by pilasters supporting a cornice, small rear entrance vestibule flanked by pilasters supporting a cornice. <sup>transitional geyer elements.</sup> 1 1/2-story w wing, excellent interior spiral staircase. Only brick end mid-18th C. dwelling of its type and period in Bedford.*

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*one of only 3 remaining houses from early community of Bedford; site of mill around which town grew - mill operated from late 17th C. to mid 18th C.*