

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
7	N-2

Newton, Mass. MRA  
Town Newton (Newton Corner)  
Address 645 Centre Street  
Historic Name William Blodgett 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 ca. 1875  
Source stylistic analysis  
Style Stick Style  
Architect unknown  
Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard  
Outbuildings garage

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Very good

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date

Acreage 24,640 sq. less than one acre

Setting urban residential along major thoroughfare

UTM REFERENCE 19.319770.4690670

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Arch. Pres. Assoc.

Organization Historic Newton, Inc.

Date 5/83; rev. by H. White 3/86

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Blodgett House is an outstanding and well-preserved example of the Stick Style in Newton, and therefore meets Criterion 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 Blodgett House demonstrates the Stick Style preference for tall, vertically proportioned forms and steep roofs that project. It exemplifies the difficulties architects had in integrating complex geometric shapes. This was eventually overcome by the rounded flowing forms that emerged in the Shingle style about ten years hence. The Blodgett House is characterized by overall angularity. The polygonal tower and portecochere are projections that contribute a sense of energy to the design.

The Blodgett House plan departs from traditional center- or side-hall solutions. The broken interior space and irregular shapes of the rooms create a restlessness. The detailing is abundant and complex: paired cornice brackets, bosses and applied ornament, balusters and trellises, as well as pannelled chimneys, stained glass and elaborate finials.

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

William Blodgett, who bought this house between 1879 and 1883, was a Boston carpet dealer. The Blodgett House is typical of the lavish suburban residences built by well-to-do Boston businessmen during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The hill on which the Blodgett House stands is named Mount Ida, and was developed shortly after the Civil War. It is one of Newton Corner's most prominent geographical features, separating it from Newton Centre to the south.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases 1907-Quincy Atwood  
1895-Adeline Blodgett  
1886-Mrs. A.N. Blodgett  
1875-land of John C. Chaffin

Directory 1886-Wm. H. Blodgett-carpets

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 7/23/86  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. West Newton Hill  
Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Vivian Andrews 9/4/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 9/4/86

22. Adams, Amos, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Vivian Andrews 9/4/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 9/4/86

23. Adams, Seth, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

24. Auburndale Congregational  
Church

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

25. Bartlett--Hawkes Farm

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

26. Bayley House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

27. Bemis Mill

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

28. Bigelow, Henry, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

29. Blodgett, William,  
House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

30. Brackett House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Blodgett, William, House (Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUL 23 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 8/24/86 - 9/6/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-4-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Blodgett, William, House

Newton, Mass, MRA

- 645 Centre St, Newton Corner -  
- I-4 (26) -



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 47  
 Metric Series. 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.  
 645 Centre Street, Newton Corner  
 13-11-2



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

April 25, 2008

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Newton (Middlesex), MA MRA Address Change  
William Blodgett House

*Paul*  
Dear Mr. Loether:

We are writing to request a technical correction in the National Register records for the above referenced property. The address has been changed from 645 Centre Street to 11 Fairmont Avenue. The property was individually listed on the National Register on September 4, 1986, as part of the Newton (MA) Multiple Resources Area.

The property faces on both Centre Street and Fairmont Avenue, but the primary entrance is now oriented to Fairmont Avenue. For this reason the owner has requested an official change of address, which was granted by the City of Newton in 2007.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Constance L. Stubbs, 11 Fairmont Avenue, Newton, MA 02458  
City of Newton, Historic Preservation Planner

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Blodgett, William, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Newton MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 4/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/13/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86001776

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW: ~~APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N~~

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                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~additional Documentation Auspicio~~

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE                     

DATE 6.4.08

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.