

FORM B - BUILDING

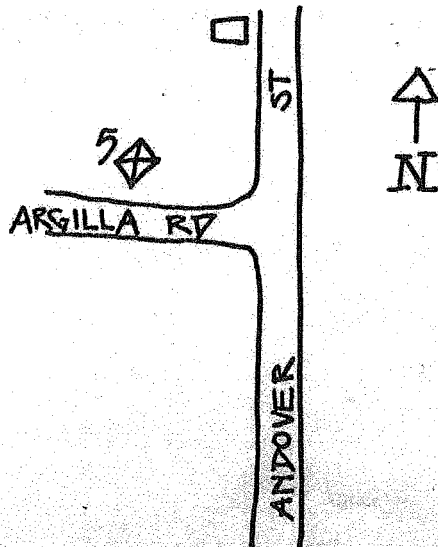
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	45



other buildings. index

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.

Description:

Date ca. 1685

Source Historic Houses of Andover

Style First Period

Architect ---

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) barn, attached 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 Eps Baker and his wife Sarah Holt. The farm is now in possession of the fourth generation of Symonds Eps' 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 Eps 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.