

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE
RECEIVED JUN 18 1982
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Brickett Place

AND/OR COMMON

John Brickett House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 113

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stow

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Oxford

CODE

017

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

USDA - U. S. Forest Service

STREET & NUMBER

633 West Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Milwaukee

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Western Oxford County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

12 Portland Street

CITY, TOWN

Erveburg

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NA

DATE

NA

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

NA

CITY, TOWN

NA

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION: John Brickett House, Stow, Maine

The John Brickett House in Stow, Maine, Oxford County, built ca. 1812, is a unique example of vernacular Federal architecture in a very remote geographical context.

The house is of brick construction (common bond) and stands 1½ stories in height, with a gable roof, four internal end-chimneys, and granite foundation.

The facade, which faces south, is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single panelled door with six panes of glass in its upper half, surmounted by a three-light transom. As with all bays in the house, the lintel here is a flat brick arch.

Fenestration throughout the house is 6/6, save for an attic window in the peak of each gable which consists of a four-light casement. The sides of the house, in the gable ends, contain four asymmetrical bays in the first story, and two in the half-story. A secondary entrance to the right side of the east end of the building is a modification to the house subsequent to its original construction.

One story, full-length porches of frame construction cover the north and west sides of the house. These, along with the braced hood over the secondary entrance, are early 20th-century modifications to the building.

The interior of the Brickett house has seen recent modifications which are mostly of a cosmetic nature, save for the insertion of a bathroom on the first floor. This latter room has interrupted what seems to have originally been a center-hall plan typical of the period. Where it survives, the interior trim exhibits late Federal characteristics, suggesting that this was a later embellishment.

The most distinctive characteristics of the building are its generous, almost square ground-level dimensions (32½ feet across the facade by 30½ feet, excluding the porches); in addition, the building has a remarkably high profile.

Considering its early date, remote location (now and when built), and distinctive details, the John Brickett House is an important landmark well worthy of preservation.

A garage, of CCC construction is located about 75 feet from the house. With this exception the house stands alone in a clearing adjacent to Rte 113. Some apple trees and a few vestiges of stone wall completes the scene.

The landscaping in the yard over the past 165 years has altered the ground surface sufficiently to destroy the architectural integrity so only the house is being submitted for nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | Farmstead | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1812 - 1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Brickett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Brickett, one of the original settlers in the area that later became Bachelder's Grant and is now part of Stow, Maine, constructed a substantial and highly individual example of a Federal house on a hill farm in a remote area of inland Maine. The structure has endured for over 160 years in the harsh climate and is still structurally sound.

It is the only example of an early 19th century dwelling located on public land within the Cold River Valley. The distinctive vernacular architecture in the remote setting is unique. Another noteworthy feature is that this substantial house was erected by the farmer on land that he didn't own.

John Brickett was one of the earliest settlers on the east banks of the Cold River in what is now Stow, Maine. He and his family arrived in about 1803, selected a spot, built a log cabin and cleared land for crops. In 1812, he began construction of the present house. He built it of hand-hewn timbers and his own handmade bricks; it took four years to complete the structure.

In 1816, Josiah Bachelder secured a patent to some 28,000 acres from the State of Massachusetts, including the land where the house stands. John purchased a 50-acre parcel surrounding his house in 1820 for \$100 and the following year purchased an additional 50 acres to the north from the Bachelder estate for \$14. John and his family lived on the farm till his death in 1863. He willed the house and all of his land to his son, Gardner, who sold it in 1877. It was then sold six times before the Forest Service acquired it in 1918.

Since that time, it has been utilized by a number of organizations including the Civilian Conservation Corps, Appalachian Mountain Club and Boy Scouts of America. It also served as a USFS Guard Station.

Through all of the transactions, this local landmark has retained its identity as "The Brickett Place." When John died, he ordered that the administrator/executor raise a suitable monument that reflected the stature and station he had in life. The monument that was erected in the small country cemetery is little noticed, but the house which he built stands as a landmark, an enduring testimony to not only his stature and station, but also his skill and craftsmanship.

The subsequent inhabitants have only made minor changes (other than the bathroom) to the house. The basic floor plan is discernible and can be restored.

