

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 25 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Deacon Samuel Lane and Jabez Lane Homestead

and/or common The Collector's Eye

2. Location

street & number Portsmouth Avenue not for publication

city, town Stratham vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~ (1st)

state N.H. code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Grayson Kirtland

street & number Portsmouth Avenue

city, town Stratham vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead is a four building complex occupying a site bounded by New Hampshire Route 101 and 108 in Stratham, New Hampshire. The sloping site is landscaped by mature shade trees and includes a former mill pond at the north end of the property. The following is a description of the four buildings surviving on the Lane Homestead.

#### Principal Dwelling, 1807, Federal Style

The principal building of the complex is a two story, five by two bay, Federal style dwelling erected in 1807 by Jabez Lane. The frame structure is sheathed in clapboard and terminates in a hipped roof which is clad in asphalt shingles. North and south roof planes are each punctuated by a parged, brick, interior chimney with straight stacks and triple arch caps. The corners of the building are marked by simple, wooden cornerboards which visually connect the dwelling's molded cornice to a flared, wooden water table. This water table unites the structure with its cut granite foundation.

The principal facade (west) is oriented parallel to New Hampshire Route 108 and includes a center bay, triangular pedimented entrance which is flanked by tapered pilasters. These pilasters terminate in simple capitals supporting a full entablature. The six panel, raised field door is further defined by a five-light transom light.

The dwelling's first story windows have nine light over six light sash enframed by molded surrounds. First story windows are accented by window cornices similar in profile to the main cornice. Windows of the second story resemble those of the first in enframing and sash, but lack cornices. Both first and second story windows are flanked by two-panel blinds.

Adjoining the east (rear) elevation of the principal block is a two story hip-roofed ell slightly lower than the main block. The ell roof is punctuated by a massive, straight stack, brick center chimney. This chimney has been periodically rebuilt as have the chimney stacks of the principal block. The exterior details of the four by two bay, rear ell are similar to those found on the main block.

Notable, original interior features include a full Georgian double pile plan and intact Federal style detailing. Of particular significance is the Federal style, center hall staircase which has a delicate cherry wood balustrade. Ebenezer Clifford, a prominent regional architect, joiner and inventor has been credited with its design.

The first story, northwest chamber retains its original floor stenciling and woodwork. The east wall fireplace mantel of this room includes a dentil cornice supported by panelled pilasters. Fluted moldings frame the overmantel and intersect with an unusual triglyph and medallion ceiling cornice. Both fluted molding and pilaster motifs are repeated at the corners of the chimney breast. The chamber's wall planes are broken by simple molded chair rails. The window surrounds are fitted with paneled interior shutters.

The design treatment of the first floor, southwest chamber is similar to that of the northwest chamber; however, ornamentation is generally simplified, lacking the elaborate carving of the latter. The fireplace mantel of the southwest room includes an intricate double fret cornice which is supported by panelled pilasters. Mantel and simple overmantel motifs are again repeated at the projecting corners of the chimney breast.

continued...

**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 #1 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 2

In contrast to the refined Federal style design characterizing the front chambers, the first floor, southeast chamber incorporates a narrow shelf mantel with a full cornice and robust cyma recta frieze as the visual focus of the chamber. The frieze of this mantel is executed in shallow relief.

Also of architectural interest in the principal block of the dwelling is a parged brick vault built into the eastern face of the north chimney. This vault forms a V in plan and is accessible through a series of three rectangular doors which progressively decrease in size (vault opening measures approximately 12" by 18"). The first vault door is wooden and has a raised panel. Inner vault doors are wrought iron secured by wrought iron strap hinges.

The easternmost first story chamber of the rear ell is finished in feather edged, wooden paneling characteristic of the eighteenth century. The western first story ell chamber has been sympathetically modified to a serviceable kitchen. The massive fireplace in this room retains its early nineteenth century hardware.

The building's second story chambers have original finishes of quality comparable to those found on the first floor. The most elaborate interior finishes are found in the master bedroom fireplace wall (east) which is composed of wooden paneling.

Although the Jabez Lane House survives largely intact and in an excellent state of preservation, minor sympathetic alterations to the original design have been made since its construction in 1807. Alterations include the introduction of a pedimented dormer in the east plane of the main roof. This dormer, added c. 1870, has a window with 6/6 sash. The first story east elevation, center bay entrance was introduced in 1935 and utilized a pre-existing window cornice. The three exterior porches adjoining the south, east and north elevations of the rear ell are also later additions to the building. The south porch, dating c. 1870, is an open, four by one bay structure supported by square piers with turned and fluted mid-sections. These piers rise to a shed roof. The east elevation porch terminates in an engaged hipped roof and is similar in design to the south elevation gallery. The east porch occupies the southernmost bay and incorporates turned balustrades on its north and south elevations. The north elevation porch is a screened, open pier addition added in an intentionally reversible manner in 1979. The north elevation porch occupies the easternmost bays of the elevation and has a shed roof sheathed in corrugated fiberglass.

Interior alterations to the original design of the principal block have been limited to the introduction of necessary services. The interior plan of the first floor ell has been altered from three connecting chambers to two chambers. The original first story ell flooring was replaced with the existing random width flooring in 1940. Interior finishes found in the east first floor ell chamber have been preserved intact.

continued ...

**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 #2 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 3

Corn House, c. 1800, 1807, Vernacular Style

To the east of the main dwelling is a three by two bay, one and one half story building running east-west. The gable roofed, frame structure is sheathed in clapboard, with narrow cornerboards. A wooden one story, one by one bay, hipped roof extension abutts the northwest corner of the building. The building is supported by a granite rubble foundation which extends one bay beyond the east elevation. Owing to the building's sloping site, the foundation extension rises a full story on the east and north elevations.

The eaves line of the building's principal facade (south) is marked by a simple board cornice which meets beaded rakeboards on the east and west gable ends. The center bay, south facade entrance has contemporary "dutch" door designed with an eight light upper panel. This door has a simple surround and is flanked by two-panel blinds. The windows of the structure have six over six sash with simple board surrounds. They are flanked by two-panel blinds and terminate in single board hoods. The sash is of contemporary design.

The building's interior plan and finishes have been altered to accommodate a single unit dwelling. Upper floor levels have been sealed and are inaccessible; however, the building's original closed stringer stair survives intact.

Shoemaker's Shop, c. 1740, 1807, Vernacular Style

South of the Corn House is a two by one bay (structural) two-story frame building. Currently used as a single unit dwelling, it has a gable roof with rakeboards on the north and south gable ends. The building is clapboarded with narrow corner boards and has a granite rubble foundation.

The principal facade (west) has a simple molded cornice currently obscured by rain gutters. Building access is gained through a first bay (north) entrance located on the west elevation. This entrance includes a four panel door enframed by simple surrounds including a molded architrave. To the north of the entrance is found a twelve light window which projects approximately eighteen inches from the exterior wall plane. The window is hooded by a shallow pent roof supported by handsawn curved C brackets. A similar window, lacking a pent roof, is located on the south elevation. The remaining windows of the dwelling have six over six sash enframed by simple surrounds and protected by single board hoods. The north and east elevation windows are flanked by two panel blinds.

An added straight stack, cinder block chimney is located on the exterior wall of the south elevation. A contemporary wooden deck with a simple, two board balustrade extends to the south of the building.

The interior of the structure has been modified for residential use.

continued ...

**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 #3 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 4

Barn, c. 1850, Vernacular Style

A two and  $\frac{1}{2}$  - story, gable-roofed, frame barn located to the east of the above structures is the fourth building contained in the complex. The structure is oriented along a north-south axis and is supported by rubble granite, dry wall foundation. Gable ends have rakeboards.

The principal elevation (south) includes double barn doors constructed of beaded, vertical boards. These doors operate on a pented track which crosses the middle two thirds of the elevation. A seven light transom light framed by simple board surrounds is centrally located above the double barn doors. First and second story windows are double, six light, fixed sash enframed by board surrounds. These windows are contemporary introductions to the building. Six over six sash windows are located on both north and south elevations of the building.

The barn has been sympathetically altered to commercial use. The interior bay divisions have been retained as has the original framing system.

NOTES

1  
Jabez Lane "Journal." Entry dated March 1, 1808, as in The Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead, ed. Amy S.L. Powell (Amherst, Massachusetts: unpublished, 1938) without pagination. For further information concerning Ebenezer Clifford, see: James L. Garvin, "Ebenezer Clifford, Architect and Inventory," Old Time New England LXL, 3-4 (Winter-Spring, 1975), pp. 23-37.

## 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1740 - 1807 **Builder/Architect** Deacon Samuel Lane, Jabez Lane

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead is an architecturally and industrially significant four-building complex located in the town of Stratham, New Hampshire. The property historically included a leather tanyard, workhouses, dwelling, shoemaker's shop and ancillary buildings. Surviving on the site are a Federal style dwelling built in 1807; a corn house (c. 1800, 1807), historically used for grain storage; a shoemaker's shop (c. 1740, 1807); and a mid-nineteenth century barn. The homestead is architecturally significant as an intact Federal period agricultural and industrial complex for which detailed building records survive and for its association with the remarkable local joiner and inventor Ebenezer Clifford who constructed the main stairway of the house. In addition to retaining architectural and site integrity, the Lane Homestead is significant in the industrial history of Stratham as the site of the Lane Tanyard and shoemaker's shop which were active in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The latter is a rare surviving example of the numerous small family businesses of the period from which sprang the New England industrialization of shoemaking in the nineteenth century.

The Lane Homestead is notable for its site integrity and cohesive architectural design. Surviving structures are documented by an unusually complete primary source record relating to their construction. The bulk of this record is in the form of personal journals kept by Deacon Lane, and later, by his son, Jabez. These journals record the physical evolution of the site and events affecting its historical context.

Samuel Lane was born in Hampton, New Hampshire, on October 6, 1718. His early education included training as a farmer, leather tanner and land surveyor. In later years, Lane supported himself by tanning and surveying. On February 19, 1741, he purchased approximately two acres of land from Col. Wiggin in Stratham, New Hampshire. This parcel, located "... in the North side of his (Wiggin's) Saw Mill Pond ..." <sup>1</sup> formed the nucleus of Lane's Stratham land holdings. In March of 1741, Lane negotiated the construction of a house frame measuring 26'-0" by 29'-0" with Daniel Moore and his son, William, of Stratham. <sup>2</sup> Cellar excavation, revealing high water table, led to the abandonment of the initial site. Lane subsequently secured an adjoining acre more suitable to construction from Joseph Moore in May, 1741. This adjoining acre included a "... brook for a Tanyard." <sup>3</sup>

Between June 16, 1741 and January, 1742, construction of the Samuel Lane House was completed. Journal references to the structure indicate a one and one half or two story frame building sheathed in clapboard with a wood shingle roof. The construction sequence of the building suggests that the structure included exterior end chimneys built from site-fired brick laid in lime mortar.

A western extension, housing a shoemaker's shop, was added to the Samuel Lane House in November, 1742. This addition utilized the western chimney of the dwelling. <sup>4</sup>

continued ...

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #7; page 1.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.04

Quadrangle name Newmarket, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References (taken at center point of property)

A 

1	9	3	4	3	8	2	0	4	7	6	4	9	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification:** Parcel designated Map 10, parcel 18 in the tax records of the town of Stratham, New Hampshire.

See Continuation Sheet #8; page 2 for justification.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Compiled by Kathryn M. Kuranda  
Researched by Margery P. Brooke

organization Rockingham Planning Commission date August 9, 1982

street & number One Water Street telephone 603-778-0885

city or town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

## 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 [Signature]

title Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development date February 8, 1983  
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 4/8/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**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 #4 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 2

Site improvements completed under Samuel Lane's direction included the construction of a "bark house" (July, 1741), installation of two stone-lined wells (November, 1742; October, 1758), erection of two workhouses in the Tanyard (April, 1750; October, 1758), construction of a barn (c. 1750), and subsequent additions (May, 1761; May, 1782), and erection of a shed (May, 1782).

Title to the Lane Homestead passed to Jabez Lane (1760-1810) following the elder Lane's death on December 29, 1806. Jabez, who had worked as a tanner with his father from c. 1780, continued the operation of the tanyard.<sup>5</sup> He also launched a major building campaign from 1807 to 1808 which resulted in the construction of the present Federal style principal dwelling as well as major alterations to the pre-existing service buildings. The Samuel Lane House was subsequently dismantled in April of 1807, and replaced by the existing Federal style dwelling. Jabez Lane maintained both a journal and detailed business records through the period of major construction. Three of the four surviving structures can be documented as constructed or substantially modified during the period 1807-1808. Through journal entries and related business receipts it is possible to accurately reconstruct the sequence of building construction, the sources of materials and the artisans involved. The intact quality of the complex, particularly the main house, presents a tangible record of construction techniques and period design which can be directly credited to local craftsmen.

In January of 1807, preparation for the construction of the Jabez Lane House was begun. In that month, framing timber was cut and the quarrying of grante foundation stone negotiated.<sup>6</sup> A journal entry, dated February 4, 1807, records that Lane traveled to Portsmouth to pick up house plans. The source of these plans is not indentified, nor have receipts indicating their source or cost survived. (A journal entry, dated January 22, 1807, records 75 shillings "to drawing house plan and viewing old house.")

Ebenezer Clifford, a noted regional designer and inventor, is a possible source of the dwelling's plans. Clifford is known to have been actively involved in the construction of the building. A letter bewteen Jabez Lane and Benjamin Mathes of Durham concerning the quarrying requirements for underpinning stone (February 3, 1807) indicates that Clifford was involved with the building from the outset. Journal references for March, 1808, cite Clifford as responsible for the design of the structure's main stair which was completed after the basic structure was erected and in active use.<sup>7</sup> References to Clifford have not been uncovered, however, for the period of major construction. The Jabez Lane House was occupied by October, 1807, and interior work continued through May, 1808.

While the main house was under construction, work was also progressing on two other surviving structures, historically known as the corn house and the shoemaker's shop. Identification of these buildings is found in Amy S.L. Lane's unpublished history, The Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead and confirmed by Mrs. James L. Tapley, a Lane descendant who resided in the Lane House between 1942 and 1944.

continued ...

**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 #5 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 3

The corn house, a one and one half story building sited to the east of the main house, was substantially enlarged from an existing structure. Improvements to the building included the addition of framing below the sill level, the introduction of foundation stone, sheathing of the gable end, the introduction of an interior stair and the addition of windows.<sup>6</sup> The corn house historically housed a basement hog pen, and first and second story storage areas used for grain. The single bay, hipped roof shed appended to the northwest corner of the building served as an outhouse. A one story, gable roofed, frame structure known as the chaise house adjoined the corn house to the east. The chaise house was moved to the site and is no longer extant.<sup>9</sup>

The shoemaker's shop, erected by Samuel Lane in 1742, was moved to its present location southeast of the main house on March 25, 1807. Improvements to the building undertaken by Jabez Lane included interior plastering and the laying of hearths.<sup>10</sup> The first story of this building was converted to a garage in the early twentieth century and now serves as a dwelling.

The final structure included in the complex is a barn located to the east of the main house. The size, plan and construction of this building suggest mid-nineteenth century construction. The building, actively used as a barn into the second quarter of the twentieth century, was converted to commercial use c. 1975. The significance of this site to the industrial history of the town of Stratham lies in its association with local tanners and shoemakers, Samuel and Jabez Lane. The property historically included the Lane tanyard which was active through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Lane records indicate that shoes produced on the site were primarily marketed in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.<sup>11</sup> Surviving from the Lanes' two-stage production process (tanning, shoemaking) is the vernacular style building which housed the shoemaker's shop.

NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Lane, A Journal for the Years 1739-1803, ed. Charles Lane Hanson (Concord, New Hampshire: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1937), p. 25.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 26.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 30.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 51. Entry for October, 1780, is the first to specify Jabez as working as a tanner with his farther, Samuel.

<sup>6</sup>Jabez Lane. "Journal" as in The Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead, ed. Amy S.L. Powell (Amherst, Massachusetts: unpublished, 1938) without pagination. Unless otherwise noted, Journal references are found in above.

<sup>7</sup>Jabez Lane, "Journal".

continued ...

**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 #6 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 4

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., Entries dated April, 1807 through August, 1807.

<sup>9</sup>Letter of March 15, 1982 from Mrs. James L. Tapley, 7007 Beekwood Drive, Chevy Chase, Maryland to Mrs. Margery Brooke, River Road, Newfields, New Hampshire.

<sup>10</sup>Jabez Lane, "Journal" Entries dated April 1807 through August, 1807.

<sup>11</sup>Samuel Lane, A Journal for the Years 1739-1803, ed., Charles Lane Hanson, Jabez Lane "Journal".

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #7 - REFERENCES

Item number 9

Page 1

Garvin, James L., "Ebenezer Clifford, Architect and Inventor", Old Time New England, LXL, 3-4 (Winter - Spring, 1975) pp. 23-34.

Lane, Jabez, "Journal" in The Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane Homestead, ed. Amy S.L. Powell (Amherst, Massachusetts: unpublished, 1938).

Lane, Samuel, A Journal for the Years 1739-1803, ed. Charles Lane Hanson, (Concord, New Hampshire: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1937).

Nelson, Charles, History of Stratham, (1866).

Tapley, Mrs. James L., Chevy Chase, Maryland, letter to Mrs. Margery Brooke, Newfields, New Hampshire, March 15, 1982.

**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 #8 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

Page 2

Boundary justification:

The property associated with the Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane House is approximately 5 acres. The rounded, triangular plot is bounded on the east by New Hampshire Route 101, west by New Hampshire Route 108, and north by the access road between the two. The parcel is congruent with the tax maps of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire. The parcel of 5 acres has been isolated by the highway improvements which formed the present traffic rotary of New Hampshire Routes 101 and 108. Today, the Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane farm complex is an island in the center of the rotary. The island is a microcosm of late 18th century farm life bounded visually and legally by 20th century highways.

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION:

The photos of the Deacon Samuel and Jabez Lane House are still representative of the site. No changes have taken place since they were taken.

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 #9 - SKETCH MAP

Item number --

Page 1

DEACON SAMUEL & TABEZ LANE HOUSE  
STRATHAM, N.H. -- 5.04 ACRES

PORTSMOUTH →  
NH RTE. 101

