

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	170

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

SEE MAP ON CONTINUATION SHEET

UTM: A 19/311330/4639820
B 19/311400/4639740
C 19/311180/4639650
D 19/311140/4639700

Recorded by Leslie C. Abernathy III

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date April 1976; revised 1981

Town REHOBOTH

Address 154 Agricultural Avenue

Historic Name Abiah Bliss House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date before 1740

Source architectural detail

Style First period

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings see text

Major alterations (with dates) see text

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 12

Setting 50 feet from road; gable end to r
road; rural context

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The house and barn at 154 Agricultural Avenue are strikingly unusual in that both original structures were later included in, but not obscured by, enveloping or additional construction. The history of builds in the house is quite complex, as the six-bay asymmetrical facade (east) suggests. The entrance is left of center under a 20th century portico. A second, possible original entrance, is right of center, and modified as a window. These entrances alternate with three pairs of two windows unevenly spaced. There are also six windows on the second story. The south three-bay portion of the main part of the house is one of the earliest structures still

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

Traditionally, this house was built by Jonathan Bliss in 1666 soon after his arrival in America. If this date is correct, this may be one of the only houses to have survived King Philip's War in 1676. In the mid 18th century, it was owned by Deacon Ephraim Bliss, who gave this property of 50 acres and "a dwelling place where my son now dwelleth" to his son Abiah in 1754 (Snape 1976:128). The property has remained in the Bliss family as an active farm ever since. Members of this family started the successful Bliss Brother's Dairy business in Attleboro in the 19th century.

As one of the earliest extant houses in Rehoboth which also illustrates the evolution of architectural form and design in a conservative context and stands in association with a barn of similar character, the Abiah Bliss House meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places individually.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Snape, Sue Ellen. Mighty Liberty Men, 1976, p.128.
Snape, Sue Ellen, ed. In Old Rehoboth, 1979, pp. 41, 116, 117, 121-123.
Tilton, G. H. A History of Rehoboth, Mass. Boston, 1918, pp.315, 358.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Rehoboth

Form No:

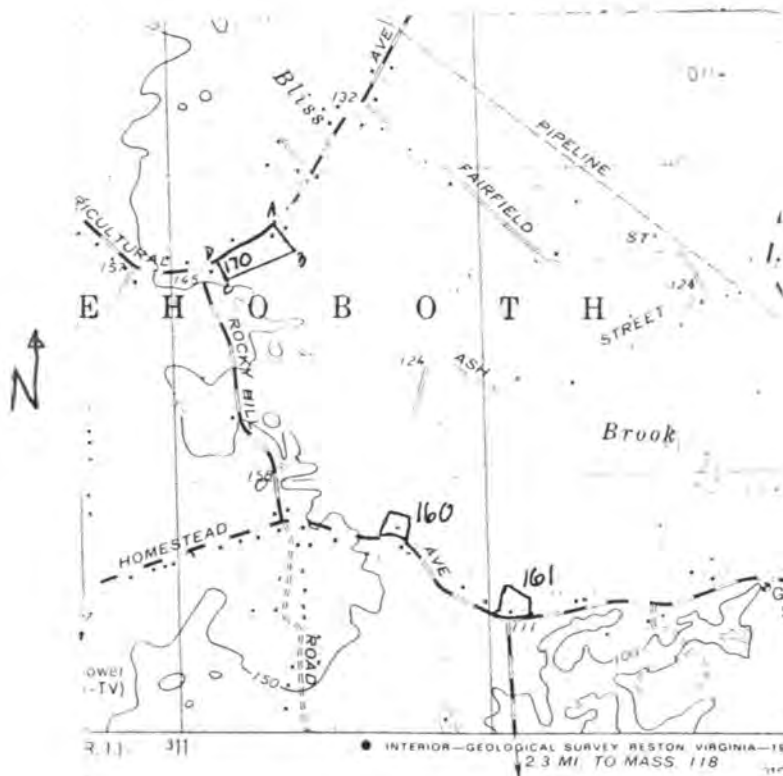
170

Property Name: Abiah Bliss House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (Continued)

standing in Rehoboth. It is dated to before 1740 on the basis of architectural details, including gunstock corner posts. The central chimney and several fireplaces also remain. The house was enlarged by a northern addition following the original lines in the early to mid 18th century. This addition had an additional chimney which was removed prior to 1930. Although there have been other additions to the south end since, the structure has stood basically unchanged since ca. 1860; in the early 20th century, it served to illustrate the substantial gable roof early house type in Tilton's history of the town. The large dairy barn is a late 19th century build with a truss gambrel roof. There have been several subsequent additions to its basement (south) side. However, the "ell" at the west end near the house is actually a three-bay broadaxed timber frame, 18th century barn. The only other standing structure is a large shed south of the house and barn.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Rehoboth Village Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Donna M. Boyd</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Allen, Elisha, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. { Anawan Club Caretaker's House
<u>Combined</u> | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. { Anawan Club Clubhouse AND
CARETAKER'S HOUSE | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Anawan Rock | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Baker House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Bliss, Abiah, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Bliss, Daniel, Homestead | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. Bowen, Nathan, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Bramble Hill | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 6/6/83 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

State Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Bliss, Abiah, House (Rehoboth MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/6/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

30:6-7 of 10



30:6

RAHS #170

Bliss, Abigail, House
Rehoboth MRA, Ma



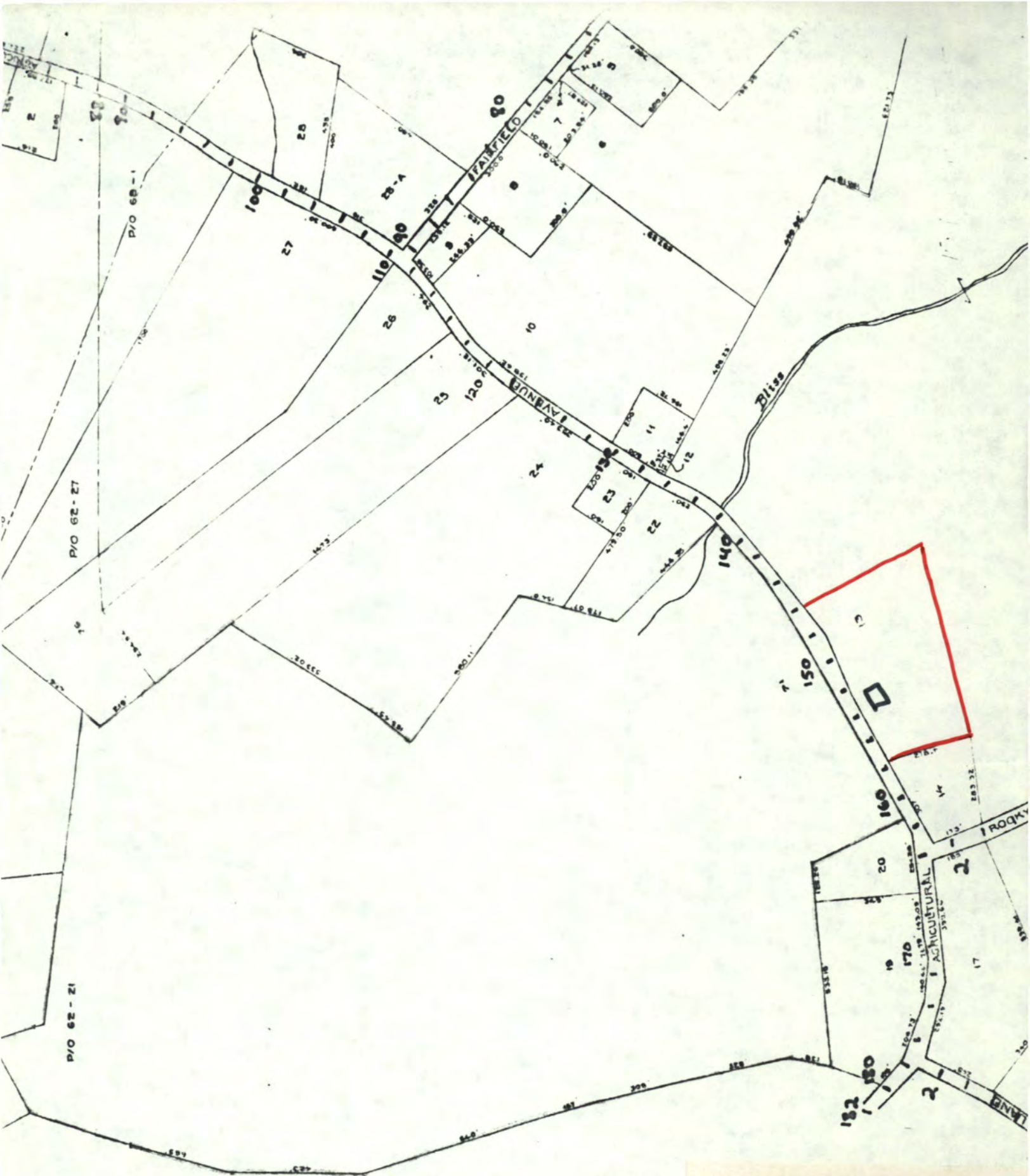
170

154 AGRICULTURAL AVENUE

BARN

Bliss, Abiah House

Rehoboth MRA, Ma



154 Agricultural Avenue
Abiah Bliss House (Form 170)
Town of Rehoboth Property Map
scale 1"=200' 1978

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292