

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Hampshire</b>
COUNTY: <b>Merrimack</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>Daniel Webster Family Home, "The Elms"</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Daniel Webster Family Home</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>South Main Street, R.F.D. #2</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>West Franklin</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE <b>New Hampshire</b>	CODE	COUNTY: <b>Merrimack</b>	CODE

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Convent</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Sisters of the Holy Cross</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>South Main Street, R.F.D. #2</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>West Franklin</b>	STATE: <b>New Hampshire</b>	CODE

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Merrimack County Courthouse</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Concord</b>	STATE: <b>New Hampshire</b>	CODE

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>None</b>				
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Webster House, "The Elms," at West Franklin, New Hampshire is a two-and-one-half-story frame and rectangular clapboard building with gable roof. Five bays wide, the shuttered windows contain double-hung sash, twelve lights over twelve, except for a smaller window above the front door which is twelve over eight. The house is entered through a six-panel double door with cornice, pilasters, and a five-panel transom. The rear facade has a similar treatment except that a porch has been added. The west side of two bays contain windows of six-over-six lights, except for a smaller window into the second floor rear room. This window may have been added recently.

The front door enters to a small foyer with open staircase rising to the second floor which could not be observed. There is a central fireplace, but the central chimney seems to have been removed above roof level, and covered by the installation of a new roof. The basic block has two rooms divided by the central fireplace. The west room has been partitioned, providing for a kitchen to the rear. The larger attachment to the east side of the house was probably added some time after the Webster descendents sold the house for use as an orphanage in 1871.

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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ebenezer Webster, Daniel's father, moved into this two-and one-half story frame house, The Elms, in 1800. This home was nearby the tavern in Salisbury which Judge Webster had operated since 1784 and in which the family had lived for the preceding 15 years. At this time Daniel was away at Dartmouth, but he returned to the Elms often through the rest of his life since his father lived here until he died in 1806. Daniel's brother, Ezekiel inherited it and he lived there until his death in 1829, when Daniel bought it.

The Elms was Webster's experimental farm, vacation retreat, home and gravesite of his parents and his four brothers and sisters--"his solace to the end of his days." <sup>1</sup> He decided to enlarge and develop the family farm into a prosperous stock farm. His visits to The Elms were seldom longer than two weeks, but by 1847, with completion of the railroad lines, he could travel there from Boston in three hours. On these trips he would visit and entertain old friends, review the farm, hunt and fish.

Today The Elms is an orphanage operated by the Sisters of the Holy Cross who have maintained the Webster house intact except for some necessary modernizations.

[For a more complete statement of significance and biography see Inventory-Nomination Form, "Daniel Webster Law Office, Marshfield, Massachusetts."]

1. Claude M. Fuess, Daniel Webster, I (Hamden, Conn.: Archer Books, 1963), p. 29.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cole, Arthur C., "Daniel Webster," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 19, (1943), pp. 585-592.  
 Fuess, Claude Moore; Daniel Webster, 2 Vols., (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1963).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45° 24 ' 24 "	71° 39 ' 24 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historic and Architectural Surveys, National Park Service DATE: 10-26-73

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS