

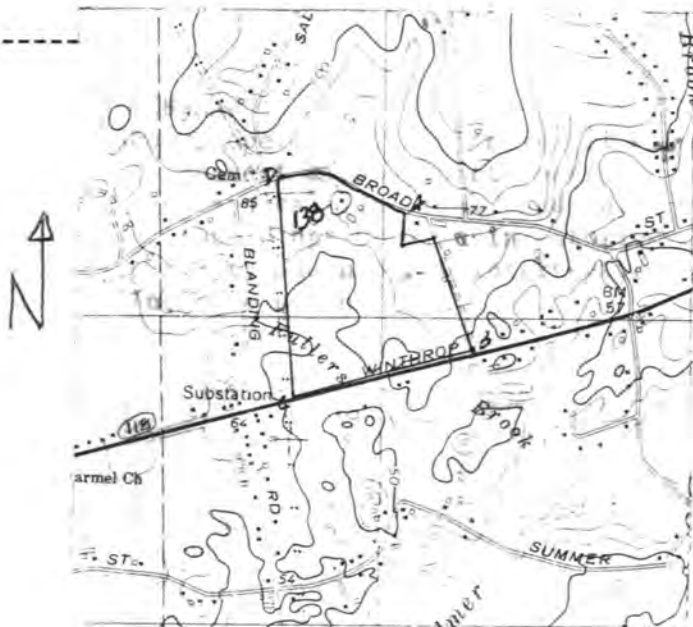
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	138

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

Photo number _____



UTM: A 19/310030/4634340
B 19/310280/4633900
C 19/309420/4633740
D 19/309380/4634460

Recorded by Leslie C. Abernathy, III

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date April 1976; revised 1981

Town Rehoboth

Address 103 Broad Street

Historic Name "Elm Cottage"

Blanding Farm

Use: Present residence/farm complex

Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1800

Source architectural details and Blanding Ms.

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings see text

Major alterations (with dates) _____

see text

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 80

Setting 200 feet from road, surrounded
on three sides by open fields,
rural context

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Known locally as "Elm Cottage," this house has been the center of an active farming operation since its construction in ca. 1800. The house and farm complex have had no significant changes after 1875, and stand today as an extraordinary record of 19th century farming technology and rural ligeways. The house is a substantial two-story Federal period five-bay center entry design in excellent original condition. A one-and-one-half story east ell added ca. 1840, is the only major alteration. The main entrance, which faces north toward Broad Street, is composed of flanking
(Continued)

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

The Blanding family were wealthy and prominent citizens in this section of Rehoboth from the late 18th to late 19th century. The area was, in fact, known by their name, as is an adjacent street. This house replaced an earlier structure known as the Deacon Joseph Wilmartr House that was torn down ca. 1790. Dr. William Blanding (1773-1857), who lived here from 1848 until his death, was a Rehoboth native and a graduate of Brown University in 1801. After studying medicine under Dr. Isaac Fowler of Summer Street, he left Rehoboth and returned in 1848 to this family homestead. He added the east ell as his doctor's office at about that time, but apparently did little else to alter the farm. He is best known in Rehoboth today for his "Reminiscences," a manuscript containing invaluable sketches and descriptions of Rehoboth houses in ca. 1800, which he preparer late in life. In 1850, the influential status of this family is recognized in a sketch of the Blanding house as one of four marginal illustrations on Walling's map of that year. It wrongly shows the owner occupant as James Blanding, William's brother from whom he had previously purchased the property. However, it is significant that he is titled as "James Blanding, Esq.," one of three in town honored as squire.

When Dr. W. Blanding died in 1857, the farm passed to his nephew William W. Blanding. He was active in public service, serving at times as selectman, assessor, town and church treasurer, and Treasurer of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society. He was a successful dairy farmer, but also raised saleable crops until around 1885 when he
(Continued)

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

- Abernathy, L. The Barns of Rehoboth, Mass., 1974, pp.40-44.
Hurd, D. H. History of Bristol County, Mass., Philadelphia, 1883.
Snape, Sue Ellen. Mighty Liberty Men, 1976, n.p.
Walling, H. F. Map of Rehoboth, Mass., 1850.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: 138
Property Name: "Elm Cottage" Blanding Farm	

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

Architectural Significance (Continued)

sidelights and fluted pilasters which support a straight, undecorated engablature. The residence is set back some two hundred feet from the road; the farm buildings are located to the east and southeast (see sketch) surrounding byfields. Most of the present-day ancillary buildings date to the period of William W. Blanding's ownership ca. 1860 to 1885. A notable exception is the early 19th century 1½ story corn barn, still on its original staddles. The two largest structures are the cow barn and stone wagon barn. By 1868, he had replaced an earlier barn with a substantial new one, probably the gigantic three-bay wide by seven bay long basement barn there today. By 1870, the stone wagon barn had been built. Stone buildings are relatively rare in New England and this is by far the largest of five stone-walled buildings in Rehoboth. Later, in ca. 1900, a milk house, privy, and shed were erected, and in 1935, a garage. The barns, the center of this functioning farmstead, tower about the residence and are visible across the open fields for a mile or more, reflecting the ambitions and success of all dairy farmers as symbolized by the Blanding family. The large amount of pasture acreage historically associated with the complex is vital to its continued function as a farm and to its ability to convey a sense of time and place.

Historical Significance (Continued)

retired from farming and leased the farm buildings and land to William P. Gardner. In 1883, the property was described by a historian as "one of the most beautiful and desirable homes in town . . . [and] a fertile, paying and valuable farm" (Hurd 1883:491). Many of the improvements William P. made were in construction of new farm buildings suitable to large-scale dairying. By 1870, he felt he had the capacity to house thirty-one large animals. Gardner later concentrated fully on dairying and expanded the capacity of the cow barn to some fifty stalls by adding an ell. At present, the current owner occupies the residence, and the farm itself continues to be leased to pasture dry cows.

As an active and notable farm for almost 200 years which has strong associations with a prominent local family and which retains its historic configuration, thus contributing to the preservation of Rehoboth's cultural landscape, the Blanding Farm meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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 2 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Brown House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Trace Van Duzee 6/6/83

12. Briggs Tavern

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/83

13. Carpenter Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/8314. Carpenter, Christopher,
House (60 Carpenter St.)Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/8315. Carpenter House
(89 Carpenter St.)Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/8316. Carpenter, Col. Thomas, III,
HouseEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/83

17. { Cushing, Caleb, Farm

Combined

Keeper

Attest

18. { Cushing, Caleb,
House and FarmEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/83

19. Drown, Nathaniel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/83

20. Elm Cottage/Blanding Farm

National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 6/6/83

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Elm Cottage/Blanding Farm (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

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 _____ Area 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 _____

UMT 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



Elm Cottage / Blending Farm
Rehoboth MRA, Ma

35:7.

RAHS #138



Elm Cottage / Blanding Farm
Rahoboth MRA / Me

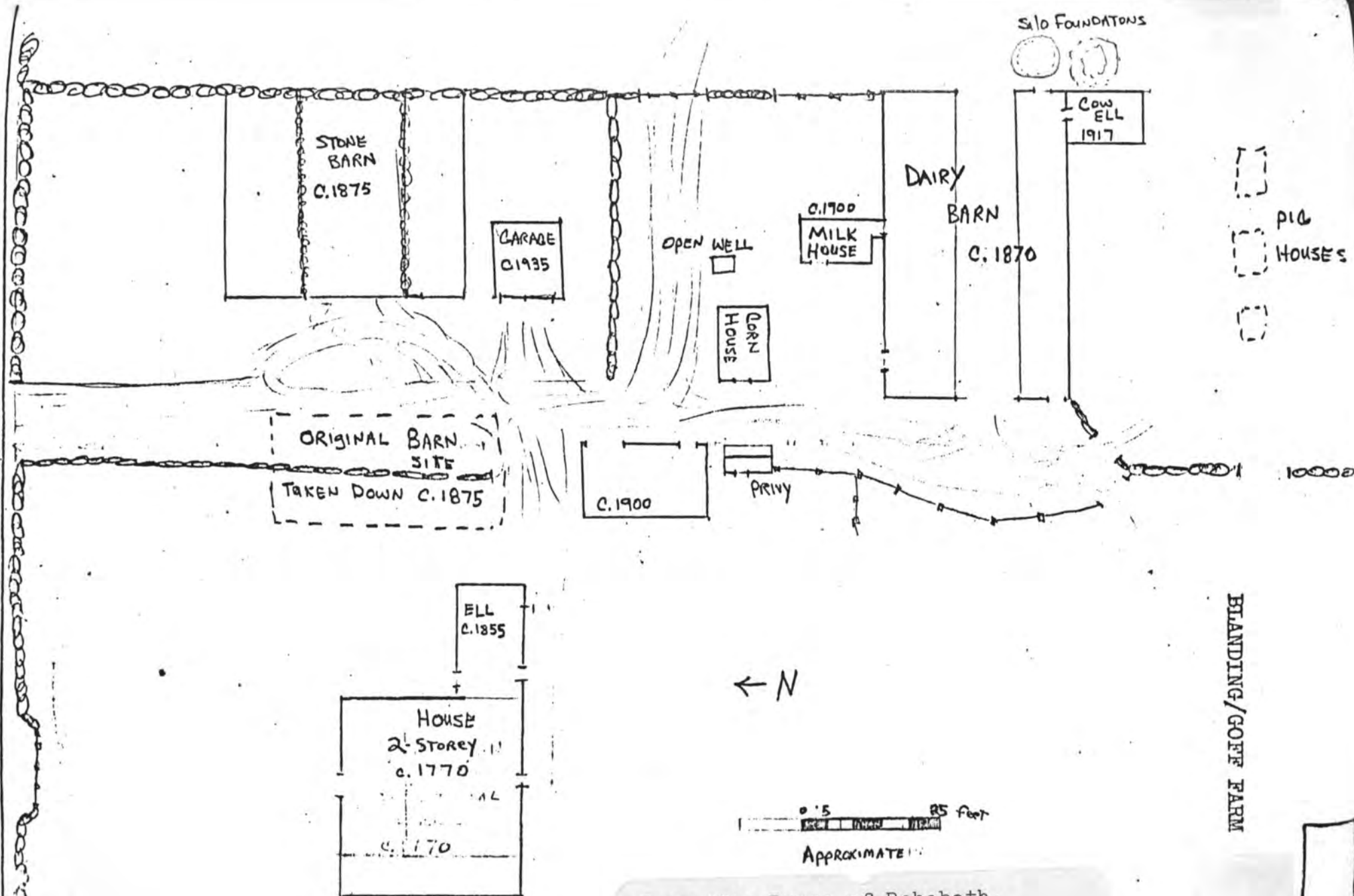
34:7

RAHS #138



103 Broad Street
Blanding Farm (form 138)
Town of Rehoboth Property Map
scale 1"=200' 1978

BROAD STREET



BLANDING/GOFF FARM

From "The Barns of Rehoboth,
Massachusetts." Abernathy 1974

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292