

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Southwick-Daniels Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 286 Mendon Street N/A not for publication

city or town Blackstone N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01504

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough

7/18/95

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Ball

Enter

National Register

Date of Action

8/22/95

Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 4            |                 | buildings  |
| 1            |                 | sites      |
| 5            |                 | structures |
| 2            |                 | objects    |
| 12           | 0               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: processing, agricultural fields

agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: agricultural fields

agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite, fieldstone

walls WOOD: clapboard, ASPHALT: shingles

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1750-1945

**Significant Dates**

1793, 1835

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Blackstone Historical Commission

Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 112 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|               |                   |                     |               |                   |                     |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 19<br>Zone | 288900<br>Easting | 4659680<br>Northing | 3. 19<br>Zone | 289900<br>Easting | 4659540<br>Northing |
| 2. 19<br>Zone | 288950<br>Easting | 4659570<br>Northing | 4. 19<br>Zone | 289010<br>Easting | 4659440<br>Northing |

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

Gretchen G. Schuler, Preservation Consultant for the Blackstone Historical Commission,  
name/title with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1995

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Doris King

street & number 286 Mendon Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Blackstone state MA zip code 01504

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JUL 21 1995

Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Blackstone (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts  
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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### 7. DESCRIPTION

The Southwick-Daniels Farm, located in the uplands of Blackstone, near the Mendon border, includes 112 acres of farmland on which there are the main farmhouse and several related farm buildings all constructed by the Southwicks and Daniels with the exception of the small one-story ell of the main house. This was the eighteenth century dwelling, purchased by Seth Southwick from Nahor Staples in 1793. The farm has been under the ownership of one family and operated as a farm since the late eighteenth century. Situated in the town of Blackstone near the Rhode Island border, the farm has Hop Brook running north-south through the property nearly parallel to and just within the east lot line. Mendon Street, which forms the western border, once was known as Daniels Road and led north to Mendon Center and south only to Union Street. Thus the road did not connect the Farm with Blackstone Village. The Southwick-Daniels Farm buildings and homestead are situated on high ground with a three-quarter panoramic vista of the farmland to the north, east and south.

Blackstone is an inland town in the southern most part of Massachusetts in the Blackstone Valley. It was part of Mendon, the town to the north, until 1845 when it became incorporated separately. To the west is Millville which was part of Blackstone until 1917. Bellingham borders Blackstone on the east and Woonsocket and North Smithfield, Rhode Island are south of Blackstone.

The Southwick-Daniels Farm complex with the main farmhouse, related outbuildings, and rural landscape of the farm lands is representative of the rural agricultural development and the best remaining example of an intact farm in Blackstone. The property retains architectural, historical and contextural integrity. The complex is reflective of the period of development beginning in ca. 1750 when a modest dwelling, now the ell of the main house, was constructed and continuing to 1945 during which time the buildings and surrounding landscape were in continuous use as a working farm and under the ownership of the Southwicks and Daniels, related by the marriage of Seth Southwick's daughter, Alpha, to Absalom Daniels, from 1793 to the present.

The 112 acres that constitute the eighteenth and nineteenth century farm remain intact and have been owned by the same family since 1793. There is a marriage connection between the pre-1793 owners, Nahor Staples, and Southwick who married Staples daughter. However, the Staples and Daniels were not related except by marriage due to the death of Lucinda Staples and a second marriage of Southwick which produced the heirs who maintained the farm.

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The Southwick-Daniels Farm (Photograph # 1) consists of four buildings, five structures, and two objects, set in the rural landscape of which all contribute to the integrity and significance of the Farm. The farm buildings, including the house and outbuildings, are clustered at the highest point of land next to Mendon Street, looking out over more than one hundred acres of farmland with its system of stonewalls marking boundaries and separating agricultural fields. Remnants of the former orchards also exist close to the house.

The main house consists of the ca. 1750 side ell and the ca. 1830 main block. Other buildings include the ca. 1850 barn, the ca. 1870 cider mill, and the ca. 1830 henhouse. Structures are the ca. 1830 corncrib, two ca. 1900 wellhouses, the ca. 1870 cistern, and the ca. 1900 system of stonewalls. The two objects are the collection of granite gate posts and the stone drinking trough which was carved in the 1860s by Daniel Simmons, important and well known local mason and engineer. While each part of the complex is in excellent condition and retains individual integrity the farm as a whole conveys a rural landscape which is becoming a rare sight in this once rich farmland area of the Blackstone Valley.

The vistas and intact stone walls (Map # 9) demarcating agricultural fields, and the path leading from the barn to the fields, the wood slat fence along Mendon Street, the tall granite posts (Map # 10) marking the entrance at the front of the house on the south side, the entrance to the barn yard, and former gates to fields, contribute to the understanding of the development of this excellent farm which retains its character and features. Two clusters of apple and peach trees remain to remind one of the former orchards which helped to sustain the farm in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. The condition of the fields today, which continue to yield over 4000 bales a hay per year, conveys the rich lands which were the mainstay of the Southwick-Daniels farm in the nineteenth century.

The land slopes in a southeasterly direction down to Hop Brook which is close to and within the eastern property boundary. The visual edge of the Farm is reforestation on the eastern and southern sides and the stonewall and wood fence along Mendon Street on the western and northern sides.

The Southwick-Daniels House (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3, and 4, Map # 1) is a well preserved example of a five-bay, two and one-half story, Greek Revival dwelling with a one-story side ell which is the oldest part of the building. The main block was built in ca. 1830 and was attached to the ca. 1750 Southwick House. The main block faces south and displays a center hall plan which is two rooms deep built around two interior chimneys. The eighteenth century side ell consists of a four-bay one and one-half story block and a small one-story one bay addition on the east end. This small portion is on a fieldstone foundation on the north

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and east sides and granite block on the south side. The rest of the main house and ell has a granite block foundation.

The house is sheathed in wood clapboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. Windows of the main block have six-over-six sash set in plain frames which are slightly set out from the clapboards and which have narrow projecting lintels. The earlier side ell has four six-over-six first-story sash set in plain frames on the south side and four small three-over-three half second-story windows on the north side. The two interior chimneys of the main block extend from the ridge and have slightly corbelled tops. A tall chimney pierces the south roof slope of the ell about one-third of the way down from the ridge.

The south side (Photographs # 2 & 3), once the main facade, is characterized by the traditional five-bay arrangement with center entrance, which is no longer used, and the five-bay side ell on the same plane. The main entrance was updated in the late 1800s articulated by the Italianate door and doorhood indicating use as a main entrance into the twentieth century. The door has two roundheaded glass lights and is shielded with a bold doorhood with raking cornice and open brace-like brackets. The only other ornamentation on the main block are the corner posts, which have plain recessed panels, which support a wide entablature and boxed cornice with narrow returns in the gable ends. The spacing of the windows and single entrance door on the south side of the ell is irregular although there is consistency of style with the six-over-six sash, louvered shutters, and the panelled entrance door with two rectangular lights, all of which were updated at the same time as those of the main house.

The rear or north elevation (Photograph # 4) of the main block has three first- and three second-story windows with a wide blank wall of uninterrupted clapboards on the northwest end of this facade. Two windows at the center of the facade are separated by two blinds or shutters and the third window is located near the northeast corner of this block. The side ell, which is set back from the main block on the north side by only a couple of inches, has two large plank doors under the four small garret or half-story windows.

The gable end (Photograph # 2) which faces Mendon Street has two first- and second -story windows and one in the gable peak. The raking boxed cornice and returns carried by the corner posts with projecting capitals enframe the gable end. From the east gable end of the main block extends the side ell so that there is only one six-over-six window in the gable peak.

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The interior plan is of note due to a couple of inconsistencies with common plans of the time. The main block has a center hall with stairs to the second story and flanking parlors. Behind the west parlor is a square room and behind the east parlor and hall is a longer rectangular room and a small pantry, the latter of which is entered from the northwest corner of the dining room in the ell. The pantry has shelves and cupboards with only a beaded edge on cupboard doors and simple wood latches. Second-story plan is similar. The oddity is the lack of space for chimneys. Small narrow mantels of marble are applied to a narrow inset projecting into each of the two parlors, however, these do not account for the traditional space of a full stack as indicated on the roof. Furthermore, the traditional arrangement of a twin chimney house is a center front to back hall which is not the case in this main block. Possibly there once was a center stack with a chimney at the back of the hall and opening into each of the two parlors through the narrow insets seen today.

Most woodwork and doors are of a later period such as the molded recessed panelled doors of two long panels over two shorter panels. Also the heavy turning of the newel post and balustrades of the staircase appear to be of a late nineteenth century design. The attic space is open and displays roof construction of a common rafter with truss ties. Rafters are set in pairs with large spaces between each pair into which have been set newer rafters. Architectural detail within the house points to a later date than ca. 1830, however, the 1835 will of Seth Southwick substantiates construction preceding his death due to the description of Alpha Southwick's share.

The side ell interior includes the kitchen, dining room, buttery, larder, and enclosed entrance shed. The north entrance doors of the side ell lead into what was an outside shed which has been incorporated into the roof of the side ell. The soap stone sink, two large copper set kettles, and no cellar show that this area was separate from the original house interior. More revealing are the granite foundation and the wood clapboards on the now interior wall which has the door leading to the kitchen. Clearly this was the outside wall of the house once with a large exterior attached shed. The shed is divided into two sections; that on the left with two set kettles, chimney which is seen on the outside, and soap stone sink, and that on the right which was a wood shed. In the nineteenth century the set kettles were used to prepare the mash for the hogs and cows. The other section, separated by removal boards which are now waist high was the wood shed. The other large door in the north elevation leads to this part of the enclosed shed of the ell. Two of the north elevation half-story windows bring light into the left part of the shed and the other two are in the buttery which is over the wood shed.

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A large dining room is located between the main block and the kitchen, both within the ell. On the north wall of the dining room are two doors, one leading to the cellar approached by wide granite steps. The other door leads to a buttery which has several steps to a landing on which are long shelves parallel to the north wall of the ell in which there are the small garret like windows seen on the north side, over the woodshed door accounting for the lower ceiling in the wood shed section of this interior shed. Through the same door which leads to the steps and raised buttery is the pantry mentioned above which is behind the east parlor of the main block. Also a small room projects from the southeast corner of the kitchen corresponding to the additional one bay ell which is only half as deep as the kitchen, best seen on the south five-bay side. The half-story over the side ell is a garret space.

Outbuildings

The outbuildings all are in excellent condition, have similar architectural features and have been continuously maintained over the years. Their arrangement and clustering are reflective of the early dates with buildings and structures close to the farmhouse. Also the economy of clustering all the buildings together left more land for agricultural fields. Each building and structure displays large cut granite block foundations and wood clapboard siding painted red. The continuous use and the fastidious care of these buildings makes it difficult to pinpoint the construction dates as they have been maintained and updated in similar fashions with wide corniced roofs and no returns, clapboard siding, and functioning windows. Further research of family papers may reveal construction dates.

At the back door of the side ell, which was the house until ca. 1830 and which has always housed the kitchen and wood shed, are the wellhouse and the corncrib. Behind the corncrib is the henhouse and next to these structures, on the north side, is the large barn from which extends a smaller barn-like structure which may be built on a foundation of an earlier barn. The cider mill is not visible from the house as it is north of the large barn.

Seth Southwick's will of 1835 mentions the corn house, a hoghouse, and a woodhouse. The foundations under the existing buildings and the interior construction show that some of these outbuildings may have been built prior to 1850. A logical time for some of the construction probably was 1830 just after Rachel Southwick's marriage to Absalom Daniels.

The cornhouse and the henhouse probably are the oldest extant outbuilding from ca. 1830. Next oldest is the large gable front ca. 1850 barn with center cupola and ca. 1900 rear addition. The cider mill is known to have been built by Hiram Daniels who died in 1875, thus its construction date is ca. 1870. The foundation of the small barn attached to the large

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one at the northwest corner indicates that this building may have been reconstructed on the site of an earlier outbuilding such as the early 1800s hoghouse. The same applies to the hen house located behind the cornhouse. The well structure is ca. 1900, built over an early well, located not far from the north door of the side ell.

The barn (Photograph # 5, Map # 2) is constructed on sloping land forming an under level of the barn which rests on a tall fieldstone foundation with open bays forming storage space under the large structure. Tall granite posts, located under the barn inside the storage bay, form part of the support system for the large structure. Centered in the gable end is a large sliding barn door topped with full-length transom lights. A smaller door is located near the northwest corner post. In the gable peak are two six-over-six windows. The corner posts are narrow and carry a narrow plain frieze with a raking cornice and no returns. The same architectural detail, fenestration and doors are found in the east gable end which with the rear addition forms a small barnyard which in turn leads to the grazing and agricultural fields. The long sides of the barn have small cow stanchion windows, three on the south side and five on the north side. The barn is topped with a hipped roof cupola which has louvered blind panels on the four sides. The cupola is topped by a tall spire-like finial.

The two ells of the barn represent ca. 1870s and ca. 1900 construction. The small barn like structure attached to the main barn at the northwest corner rests on a granite block foundation and has wood clapboard siding on the south and west facades. The north and east sides have been covered with asphalt shingles. On the main or south side which faces the house are two sets of carriage shed doors and one smaller door, each set in a plain flat frame. The rear addition to the barn rests on a tall fieldstone foundation. The one-story structure has large windows for additional light and the roof overhang displays exposed rafters pointing to the ca. 1900 date.

The cider mill (Photograph #6, Map # 3), constructed by Hiram Daniels before his death in 1875, is similar to the small barn structure attached to the main barn. It rests on a granite block foundation, has wood clapboard siding, and a roof similar to that of the barn with raking boxed cornice and no returns. The corner posts and frieze also are of similar dimensions to those of the barn. The west gable end is two bays deep with two first-story, two second-story and one gable peak windows, all with plain trim surrounds and six-over-six sash. Windows in the east gable end have six-over-one sash and the same fenestration pattern as the west gable end with the exception of one first story window. There are three six-over-six windows on the long north side which overlooks the fields. On the long south side are three doors and one six-over-six window, the latter of which is positioned in the center of the facade. The large barn-like double door near the southwest corner of the building opens out

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into the barn yard. Next to this is an entrance door and a second barn-like double door is at a slightly lower level in the southeast corner of the building.

Within the building are two cider presses which are two stories high and which have all working parts. The presses are constructed of hand hewn beams. The older press is made of exceptionally large twenty-inch by eighteen-inch beams in eight foot lengths with scarfed joints. Oversized carved wood threads are made for large wooden screws. There are two rooms in the west gable end walled off from the cider presses and in which there is a wood stove accounting for the chimney piercing the roof ridge at the peak of the west gable end of the building. Also an integral part of the cider mill is the enormous cistern (Map # 11) which is located just outside adjacent to the west gable end and marked by the large octagonal wood cover.

The corn house (Map # 4) is raised above the ground for air circulation. Tall granite posts topped with square granite blocks support the gable roof structure which has clapboard siding on the north and west and vertical slat siding on the south and east sides. The hen house (Map # 5) which is located behind the cornhouse appears to have been constructed at a similar time and rests on a granite block foundation and has wood clapboard siding. The south side has two large twelve-over-twelve windows and a door. One similar window is in the east gable end. The interior is whitewashed. The building has been modified over the years as is seen in the windows.

There are two wellhouses (Map #s 6 & 7), one just outside the kitchen door and one located near the road in line with the barn's northwest ell. Each has a wellhouse built over the well, both of which have been rebuilt with hipped roofs in later years. The one object of note is the stone carved watering trough (Map # 8) located south of the barn near the main well.

#### Archaeological Description

There are no prehistoric sites currently recorded on the Southwick-Daniels Farm property or in the general area (within one mile), however, sites may be present prehistoric sites have been documented in the region along the periphery of major riverine locals and in surrounding uplands, particularly along tributary streams. Sites have been recorded along the Blackstone River and one of its tributaries, the Mill River as well as at major ponds such as Nipmuck Pond north of the farm. Physical characteristics of the nominated property include several areas whose level to moderately sloping well drained terraces border Hop Brook indicating locational criteria which are favorable for prehistoric sites. Given the above information, the size of the farm (112 acres) and the extent of undeveloped property, a high potential exists for

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the recovery of significant prehistoric resources.

There is also a high potential for significant historic period resources on the property. Initial settlement of the Southwick-Daniels Farm occurred in 1685 when Abraham Staples moved with his wife to the farm. Archaeological survey and testing may be able to locate structural remains and occupational related features associated with the early settlement whose location is currently unknown. These resources may be present in the general vicinity of the existing farm building. The main block of the present farmhouse was built in ca. 1830 incorporating the existing ca. 1750 farmhouse as a side ell. Structural remains from numerous outbuildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) should exist beginning with the ca. 1750 farmhouse and after the 1830 construction. No information exists pertaining to outbuildings and occupational related features from the 1750-1830 period although they undoubtedly existed for a working farming. Beginning in ca. 1830 several outbuildings are identified for the property including a corn crib (ca. 1830), hen house (ca. 1830), barn (ca. 1850), cider mill (ca. 1870), cistern (ca. 1870), and two well house (ca. 1900). In 1835 Seth Southwick's will mention a corn house, hog house, and wood house. The latter two outbuildings were either later dismantled or incorporated into latter structures. Evidence exists that the small barn attached to the larger at the northwest corner and the hen house located behind the corn crib were reconstructed on the sites of earlier outbuildings such as the early 1800's hog house. At least one of the well houses located near the north door of the side ell is reported to overly an early well of unknown date.

(end)

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Southwick-Daniels Farm retains its rural agricultural setting and is reflective of a farm which has evolved over two centuries leaving an intact farmstead. The property is the best extant example of a well-preserved farm complex in Blackstone and one of the best in the Blackstone Valley with its ca. 1750/ca. 1830 farmhouse, several period outbuildings, and surrounding farm landscape. The complex retains architectural and historical integrity and is significant for a period beginning in ca. 1750 when the first small house, now the ell, is estimated to have been built, to 1945 throughout which time the farm has been in continuous use. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The Southwick-Daniels Farm meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant at the local level.

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Originally part of the 1667 Mendon grant to Moses Payne, Peter Brackett and others of Braintree, Blackstone was known as the South Parish or South Precinct of Mendon from 1766 when a second meeting house was established at Chestnut Hill (now Millville). The South Parish was part of Mendon politically until Blackstone's separate incorporation in 1845. And in 1917 Millville separated from Blackstone leaving the town with its present ten and one-half square miles more or less.

From the early to mid 1700s, centers with their own character evolved in Mendon's South Parish at Chestnut Hill (now Millville), at East Blackstone along the Mendon Road (now Elm Street) and at Blackstone Village on the Blackstone River. Transportation routes followed water courses and were cause for the location of the early settlement along Elm Street, the link between Providence and Worcester, and along Main Street in Blackstone Village parallel to the Blackstone River. In 1791 Mendon was divided into school districts with seven in the South Parish. In the same decade the Quakers established a meeting house at East Blackstone reinforcing the framework for this self sufficient village center.

The fine sandy loam of the upland hills and the water courses throughout Blackstone account for the successful agricultural economy of the early eighteenth century. These led to the need for forges and grist mills, hence the beginning of the industrial development which was primary to the evolution of Blackstone. In North and East Blackstone there were early eighteenth century farms with rich soils for pasture land and by the end of the 1700s there were approximately 80 substantial farms listed in Mendon's South Parish of which five had saw, grist, or fulling mills.

From 1809 early cotton mills sprang up in four locations on East Blackstone's Mill River and Quick Stream and in several locations in Blackstone Village. Those in Blackstone Village grew at a faster rate in part due to the water source and amount of power generated and in part due to the transportation routes of the nineteenth century including the Blackstone Canal of 1828 to 1848 and the railroads from 1847.

While the villages evolved into industrial centers, the upland farms of Mendon's South Parish, which became Blackstone in 1845, carried on the agricultural tradition of the community. The Southwick-Daniels Farm has a rich history beginning in 1685 when Abraham Staples moved to this farm in the southern part of Mendon. Staples had been among the first settlers in Mendon in 1667 and had fled in 1675 during the King Philip War. He returned to his farm in Mendon in 1678, rebuilt the family home, and in 1685 moved with his wife to the larger farm (now known as the Southwick-Daniels Farm) in the southern part of town leaving the original farm to the care of some of his sons. Both farms remained in the family

(continued)

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Blackstone (Worcester County)  
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 3

throughout the eighteenth century.

In 1793 Nahor Staples, a fourth generation direct descendant of Abraham Staples, sold the southern most farm to Seth Southwick (1768-1835). Staples had just purchased his half-brother's, Abraham Staples IV, farm which was the family's original land in the northern part of Mendon. In 1794 Seth Southwick married Nahor and Prudence Staple's daughter, Lucinda. Thus Staples descendants remained connected with this farm into the nineteenth century. Lucinda met an untimely death in 1798 after the birth of two daughters, Ruth (1794-1812) and Elvira (b. 1796) and a son, Seth (b. 1798). In 1801 Seth Southwick married Alpha Waldon of Bellingham and together they had six children of which only three daughters lived to adulthood.

The farm that Southwick purchased is described in the 1798 Federal Tax Census as a farm with one barn, one cornhouse, and a one-story dwellinghouse with seven windows. The house, no doubt, was today's side ell. Within the present structure is what appears to have been an outside attached shed on the north facade, thus, the late eighteenth house included today's kitchen, pantry, and dining room with garret space above and the shed across the north facade with sink, set kettles and woodshed, and interior buttery over the woodshed part of this now interior shed.

In 1829 Seth and Alpha Southwick's daughter, Rachel, married Absalom Daniels of Bellingham. Records indicate that the farm was taken over by Rachel and Absalom because in 1835 when Seth Southwick died, his will left one-third of the farm to his wife Alpha and two-thirds to his heirs, which included five children (and the respective husbands of Southwick's daughters), all of whom sold their shares to Rachel (their sister or half-sister) and Absalom Daniels in the same year. The Southwick probate talks of a homestead farm and 146 acres with buildings, five cows and one bull, one horse, three pigs, seven tons of hay, straw, corn, rye, white beans and other crops. Thus, the nature of the use of the farm by Southwick is known.

The one-third share left to Alpha, widow of Seth Southwick, indicates that the house had been enlarged beyond what is now the side ell prior to Southwick's death. The probate record specifically identifies how the property was to be divided and indicates that Alpha, whose dower included one-third of everything, would live at the farm with Rachel and Absalom Daniels. Alpha's share included "one-half of the front entryway below and above with two rooms below and two in the chambers adjoining the westerly end of said house and the garret above and the cellar below with a privilege at all times to pass to and from the cellar, chamber and garret and also privilege to pass to and from the oven to bake, reserving to the

(continued)

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Continuation SheetSouthwick-Daniels Farm  
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heirs a privilege in common with said Alpha to pass at all time to and from the garret and chamber." Alpha also received the old pear tree, one-third of each of the woodhouse, the hog house, and the cornhouse, privileges to pass to and from these structures and use of the well. (Probate Court, Worcester County).

In 1839 Alpha Southwick conveyed her dower to her son-in-law, Absalom Daniels. In 1850 the farm passed to Hiram Daniels (1831-1875), son of Absalom and Rachel Daniels who married Elizabeth Thayer in 1866. Daniels' wife was the daughter of Caleb and Hannah Thayer thus descending from first settlers of Mendon. Hiram Daniels changed the focus of the farm from crops to raising cows. He built the large mid-nineteenth century barn, probably attached to a smaller earlier barn, which appears to have been rebuilt by Daniels when he constructed the cider mill. Also Hiram Daniels built the cider mill for the small apple orchard which he had on the property and which would become a mainstay of the farming for a period of time in the early 1900s. In the 1860s Hiram Daniels had Daniel Simmons do some of the granite work at the farm including chiseling the water trough. Simmons was well known in Blackstone for construction of the Saranac Dam in 1856 and Roaring Dam (also called Rolling Dam) in 1886. He also dug many local wells and probably was responsible for the second well at the Farm and possibly built the cistern in the late 1860s.

Until 1872 when Hiram Daniels petitioned to have the road in front of his farm constructed south to join Mendon Street which stopped at Lincoln Street, access to the farm was the Mendon Road north to Mendon Center or south only to Union Street which diverged to the west and led to the Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse and Millville. Thus the Southwicks and Daniels had little daily contact with Blackstone Village and East Blackstone Village. Most of those who lived here are buried at Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse.

Hiram Daniels died just a year after his son's, Hiram Thayer Daniels, birth, leaving his widow with two young children to manage the farm. Mrs. Daniels maintained some cows and the apple orchard which was greatly expanded by her son and heir, Hiram T. Daniels (1874-1949). Oral tradition states that Mrs. Daniels firmly directed farm activities and attended to details herself such as measuring the wood.

During Hiram T. Daniels proprietorship of the farm from the late 1800s, the rear section of the barn was constructed for his heifers, the cider mill was improved with a second press for the thriving apple orchard cultivated by Hiram T. and to accommodate other local farmers even those from Woonsocket, Rhode Island who brought apples for vinegar and cider production. Hiram T. Daniel's also was responsible for building the stone walls using oxen and dynamite to dig up all the rocks to make fertile fields.

(continued)

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Hiram T. Daniels married Carrie Mabel Stearns in 1896 and had six children. Their son, Adin Thayer Daniels, better known as "Charlie", maintained a working farm in perfect condition until his death in 1993. In the mid 1900s Charlie Daniels raised peaches and hayed the fertile fields. He also worked the cider mill with two presses powered by a steam engine and a large outside cistern until 1950. Vinegar and cider were processed and sold at the farm until the mid-twentieth century. Some years ago the steam engine, which powered the cider presses, was sold to the Hopedale Mill, yet the cider mill retains its works representing an important building type and function.

Today the farm remains in the Daniels family. The fields continue to yield a fine harvest which reached 4000 bales of hay in 1994. Preservation efforts are discussed and the owner's desire is to retain a working farm which is known to require commitment and continual hard work. Only minor subdivision has occurred separating the land on the west side of Mendon Street from the 112 acres on the east side. Eleven of those acres on the west side were sold to AT&T in 1966 for the construction of the transmitting towers which are northwest of the farm setting and provide the only surrounding intrusion to the Southwick-Daniels Farm.

The Southwick-Daniels Farm has a long history of continuous use while retaining and displaying one of the best preserved examples of a nineteenth century farmstead with related period outbuildings. The history of the use and preserved setting are reasons that the unspoiled landscape of the Farm is a vital ingredient to the significance of the property. Use and ownership by one family from 1793 to the present day accounts for the reliable history which preserves much of the tradition of the Farm and is a source for an understanding of when and how many of the outbuildings and stone walls were constructed as well as information about growing crops, raising animals, and establishing orchards.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Blackstone are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can contribute to a greater understanding of Native American settlement and subsistence within the Blackstone River drainage, particularly in a transitional zone between the coastal lowlands and Worcester Plateau uplands. Potential sites on the Southwick-Daniels Farm may contain valuable information on the importance of upland sites along tributary streams within that drainage system. Native American settlement in this area may focus on larger sites along the Blackstone River, possibly at the confluence of tributary streams or at fall lines. These sites in turn may be related to larger sites and/or core areas along lower portions of the Blackstone River towards Narragansett Bay to the south or towards the lower reaches of the Charles and

(continued)

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**Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Blackstone (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts**

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Neponset Rivers. Prehistoric sites in this area may also represent a specialized adaptation to specific resources and environmental characteristics in the general area.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to document the pre-1830 land use on the farm for which few examples survive. The identification of structural remains and occupational related features for the 1685-1750 period would represent the only evidence for this time as no survivals of any type survive. The 1750-1830 period is nearly equally under represented with the ell and possible outbuilding foundations as one only survivals. The identification of structural remains from this early period can provide details of the farm's early lay out and a better understanding of what portions of the earlier farm were incorporated into the 1830 farmstead we see today. Detailed analysis of occupational related features can provide details relating to how the farm's inhabitants level and the nature and extent of agricultural production. The documentation of pre-1750 settlement might result in the nominations period of significance being pushed back to the ca. 1685 settlement. The identification of structural remains related to the post 1830 farm phase can also help to document the layout for that period, however, most structures from that period appear to have survived. Occupational related features probably represent the most common archaeological resources surviving from that period. Detailed analysis of these resources can supplement the most documented period of the farm's landuse during the 19th and 20th centuries. This analysis can provide an in depth look at life on the farm as well as the extent to which rural farming was incorporated into regional farming markets and practices during the period. Evidence may also be present indicating the extent to which life or farming practices were influenced by construction of the Blackstone Canal constructed along the Blackstone River early in the 19th century.

**(end)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Blackstone (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts

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(end)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Blackstone (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts**

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

UTM References (cont.)

| Point | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-------|------|---------|----------|
| E     | 19   | 289320  | 4659170  |
| F     | 19   | 289370  | 4659180  |
| G     | 19   | 289440  | 4659060  |
| H     | 19   | 289400  | 4659040  |
| I     | 19   | 289430  | 4658900  |
| J     | 19   | 289220  | 4658840  |
| K     | 19   | 289200  | 4658970  |
| L     | 19   | 288960  | 4658900  |
| M     | 19   | 288990  | 4658780  |
| N     | 19   | 288980  | 4658720  |
| O     | 19   | 288680  | 4659070  |
| P     | 19   | 288960  | 4659620  |

Verbal Boundary Description

The Southwick-Daniels Farm follows the boundaries of the assessor's parcel Plat 28, Lot 10 of 112.66 acres, all of which borders on Mendon Street on the west side of the parcel. This large intact parcel includes the farmstead, related outbuildings and surrounding agricultural fields with Hop Brook within the Farm parcel and nearly parallel to the eastern most property boundary.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Southwick-Daniels Farm  
Blackstone (Worcester County)  
Massachusetts**

**Section number**   10   **Page**   2  

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## Boundary Justification

The Southwick-Daniels Farm parcel most closely represents the early farm land owned by Staples in the eighteenth century, Southwick in the early nineteenth century and Daniels from 1836 to the present day. Only small portions have been divided and no longer are part of the original farm parcel.

**(end)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Southwick-Daniels Farm  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Southwick Daniels Farm looking north across agricultural fields with farmhouse in background and some outbuildings beyond.
2. Southwick-Daniels Farmhouse looking east, northeast showing main facade and west gable end.
3. Southwick-Daniels Farmhouse looking north, northwest showing main or south facade of side ell and main block.
4. Southwick-Daniels Farmhouse looking south, showing north facade of main block and side ell.
5. Southwick-Daniels Farm Barn looking east, northeast, showing west and south facades of main barn and edge of ca. 1900 rear addition and small barn-like structure attached at northwest corner of large ca. 1850 barn.
6. Southwick-Daniels Farm Cider Mill looking north, northeast showing west and south facades of cider mill.

**(end)**

**SOUTHWICK-DANIELS FARM  
BLACKSTONE (WORCESTER COUNTY)  
MASSACHUSETTS**

| <b>Map #</b> | <b>Resource</b>     | <b>Date</b>      | <b>Resource</b> | <b>NR Status</b> |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1            | Main House          | ca.1750/ca.1830  | B               | C                |
| 2            | Barn                | ca.1850/ca. 1900 | B               | C                |
| 3            | Cider Mill          | ca. 1870         | B               | C                |
| 4            | Corn House          | ca. 1830         | St              | C                |
| 5            | Hen House           | ca. 1830/ca.1900 | B               | C                |
| 6            | Wellhouse           | ca. 1900         | St              | C                |
| 7            | Wellhouse           | ca. 1900         | St              | C                |
| 8            | Watering Trough     | ca. 1865         | Ob              | C                |
| 9            | Stone Walls         | ca. 1900         | St              | C                |
| 10           | Granite Gateposts   | ca. 1850s        | Ob              | C                |
| 11           | Cistern             | ca. 1870         | St              | C                |
| 12           | Agricultural fields | N/A              | Si              | C                |

TOTAL RESOURCES:      12 Contributing      0 Noncontributing

4 Contributing Buildings  
5 Contributing Structures  
2 Contributing Objects  
1 Contributing Site

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Southwick--Daniels Farm

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 7/21/95                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/01/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/17/95                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/04/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001030

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    8/22/95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: *Entered in the  
National Register*

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Southwick - Daniels Farm  
206 Mendon Street, Blackstone  
Worcester County  
Britten & Schuler

Fall 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission  
Looking <sup>North</sup> ~~South~~ ~~east~~ - ~~west~~ across agricultural  
fields with farm house + barns  
in background.

Photo #1 of 6



SOUTHWICK-DANIELS FARM

286 Mendon Street BLACKSTONE

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

GRETCHEN G. SCHULER

Spring 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission

Looking east, north east - Main Facade of FARM HOUSE

Photo #2 of 6



SOUTH WICK - DANIELS FARM  
260 Mendon Street, Blackstone  
Worcester County, MA  
GRETCHEN G. SCHULER

Spring 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission

Main facade + side ell of Farmhouse - looking north  
northwest

PHOTOS #3 of 6



Southwick-Daniels farm  
286 Mendon Street, Blackstone  
Worcester County, MA

Gregory G. Schiller

Spring 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission  
Looking south, south west - north elevation of main house  
and ell.

PHOTO #4 of 6



SOUTH WICK - DANIELS FARM  
286 Mendon Street, BLACKSTONE

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA

GUSTAV G. SCHULLER

Spring 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission

Barn looking east, northeast

PHOTO # 5 of 6



SOUTH WICK - DANIELS FARM

286 Mendon Street, Blackstone

Worcester County, MA

Esther G. Schuler

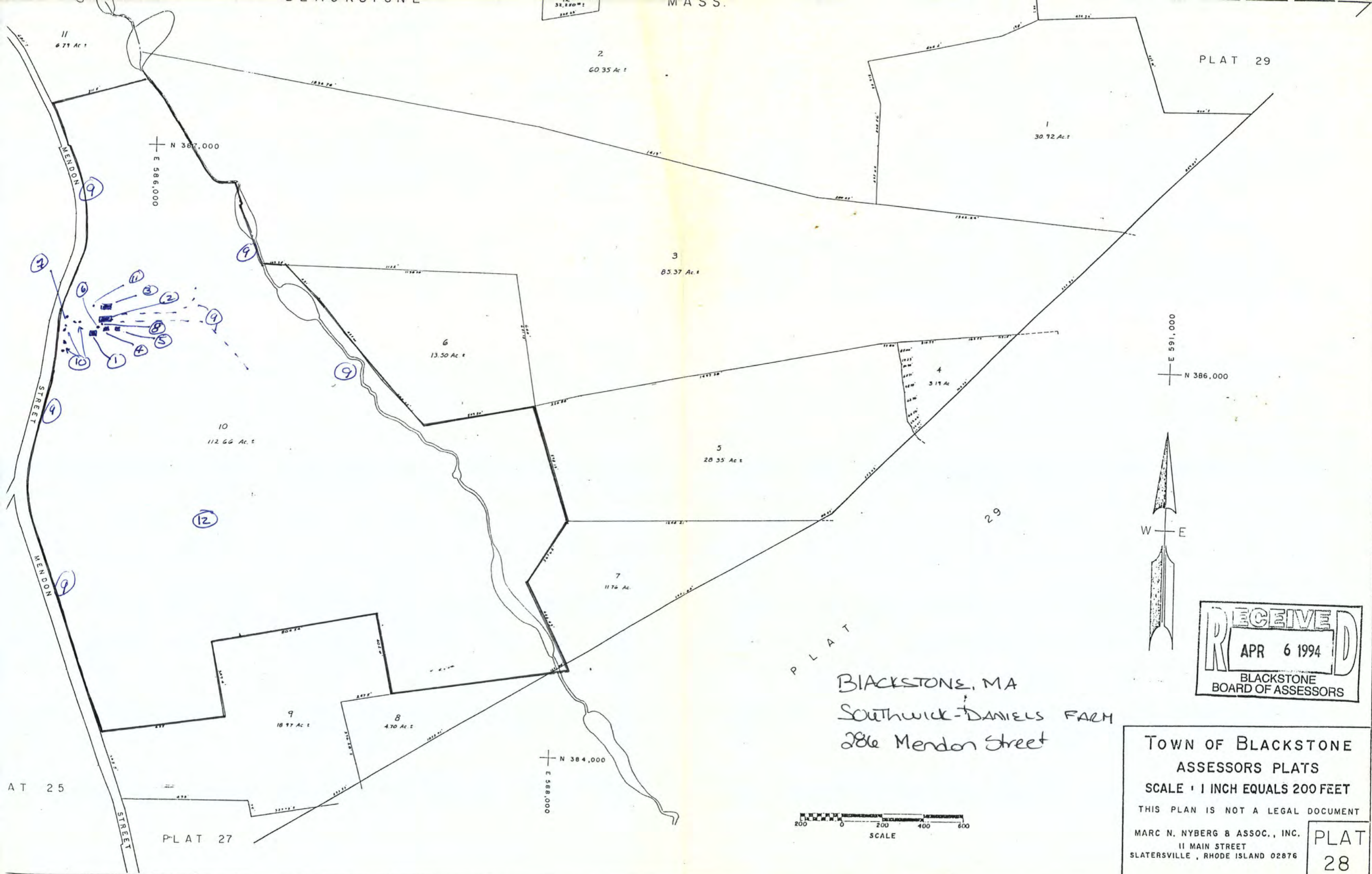
Spring 1994

Negatives: Blackstone Historical Commission

Cider Mill - looking north, northeast

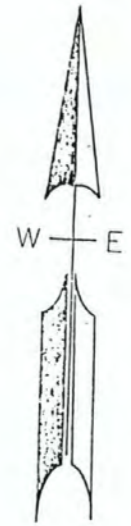
Photo #6 of





PLAT 29

N 386,000  
E 591,000



**RECEIVED**  
APR 6 1994  
BLACKSTONE  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

PLAT  
BLACKSTONE, MA  
Southwick-Daniels Farm  
286 Mendon Street

SCALE  
200 0 200 400 600

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE  
ASSESSORS PLATS  
SCALE : 1 INCH EQUALS 200 FEET  
THIS PLAN IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT  
MARC N. NYBERG & ASSOC., INC.  
11 MAIN STREET  
SLATERSVILLE, RHODE ISLAND 02876

PLAT  
28

N 387,000  
E 586,000

N 384,000  
E 588,000

PLAT 27

AT 25



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 13, 1995

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Southwick-Daniels Farm, 286 Mendon Street, Blackstone (Worcester County), Massachusetts, 01504.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Thomas Bik, Chairman, Blackstone Historical Commission  
Robert DuBois, Chairman, Blackstone Board of Selectmen  
Gretchen Schuler, Preservation Consultant  
James Pepper, BRVNHCC