

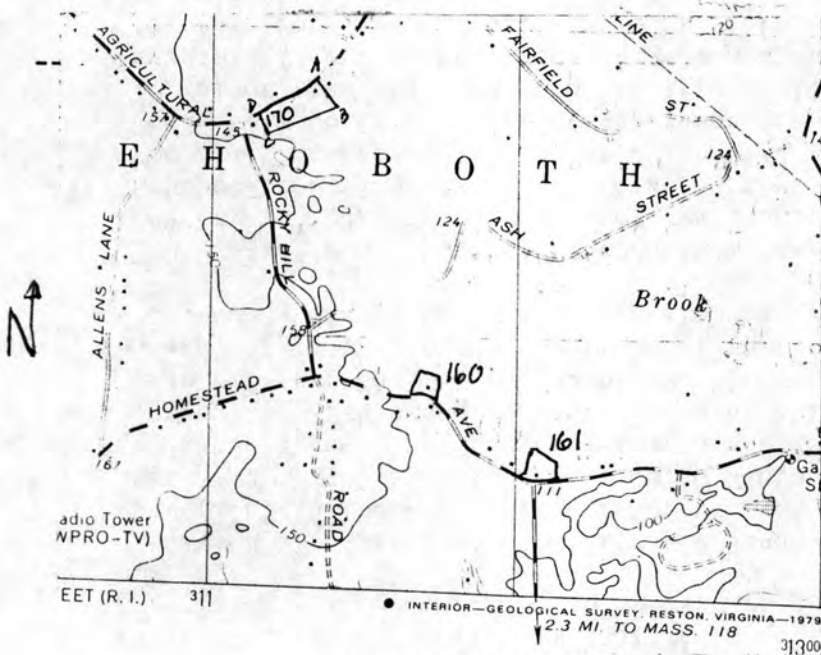
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	161

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

Photo number _____



ALSO SEE ATTACHED

UTM: 19/312080/4638580

Recorded by Leslie C. Abernathy III

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date April 1976; revised 1981

Town REHOBOTH

Address 76 Homestead Ave.

Historic Name Daniel Bliss Homestead

Use: Present residence

Original residence; center of dairy farm

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1750

Source architectural detail; MLM p.133

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings see text

Major alterations (with dates) _____

see text

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 3.66

Setting 40 feet from Homestead facing

down Perryville Rd.

rural context

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Daniel Bliss Homestead is one of Rehoboth's most outstanding Georgian period houses notable for its well crafted detail and the quality of restoration work. Several ancillary farm structures grouped around the house stand witness to over 200 years of farm activities.

The house itself displays a typical two-story center chimney plan with two early to mid 19th century ell additions at the east gable end. It appears to represent
(Continued)

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

Daniel Bliss purchased land from the Rehoboth proprietors in the "1738 Land Division" in the northwest part of present day Rehoboth, the last area to be settled. With his main residence at Winter Street, he built this house in the 1750s. In 1759, a dwelling and forty-four acres were conveyed to his son, Jacob Bliss. During the 19th century, George William Bliss, descendant of Daniel Bliss, farmed here with his son, V. Walter Bliss, who was paid \$10.00 per year, plus room and board, prior to his marriage when father and son joined partnership. The farm had then grown to encompass several hundred acres.

The expansion and success of the family dairy business by the end of the 19th century is indicated by the fact that in 1895 V. W. Bliss was one of the few Rehoboth contributors to an atlas of Bristol County and was identified as living in the old homestead of 150 acres which had been in the family for five generations and engaged in "Milk business" (Everts and Richards 1895:35). Richard P. Bliss, son of V. Walter, ran the farm from ca. 1920 to 1940. Milk from a herd of twenty-four cows was sold in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and turkeys were raised for market. Ice was cut from Perryville Pond, a mile or so to the south. In the 1930s, dairying was abandoned for hen raising which did not prove successful. Eventually, Richard went to work in Providence, Rhode Island, but continued to live at the homestead. He served on the school committee from 1918 to 1940 and was instrumental in an early move to centralize Rehoboth schools. Richard's sister, Mildred Bliss Waite, was a teacher
(Continued)

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

- Everts and Richards. Atlas of Bristol County, Mass., Philadelphia 1895, pp.35-37.
Snape, Sue Ellen. Mighty Liberty Men, 1976, p.
Snape, Sue Ellen, ed. In Old Rehoboth, 1976, p.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: 161
Property Name: Daniel Bliss Homestead	

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

Architectural Significance (Continued)

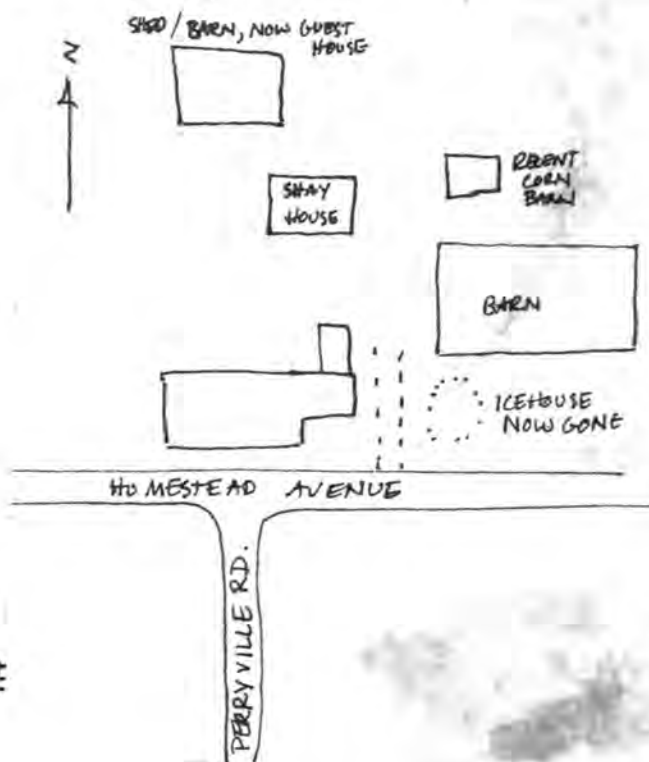
the evolution of an original half house, possibly with end chimney in the Rhode Island manner, enlarged at an early date to its present substantial form; evidence includes the asymmetry of the five-bay facade and the bake oven location in the east side chamber, rather than the more typical rear chamber position. At one time, a former owner had reOovated the interior and removed much of the interior detail. Much of it, labelled as to original location and stored in an outbuilding, was discovered and reinstalled ca. 1970, so that today the house retains most of its original features, including dividing walls of angle-cut feather edged panels and raised chimney breast panelling.

Two finished rooms in the attic accomodated farm help. The east kitchen ell retains dado panelling and there is evidence that what is now a straight stack chimney in the east end was once larger and contained fireplaces on each floor. A one-story ell extending northward off the kitchen ell is also of post and beam construction.

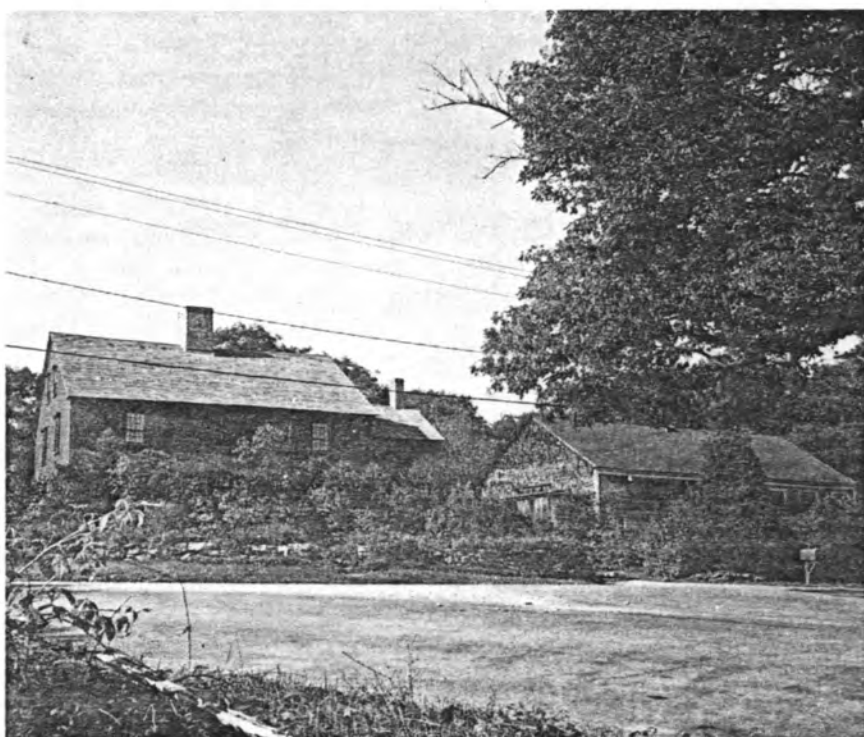
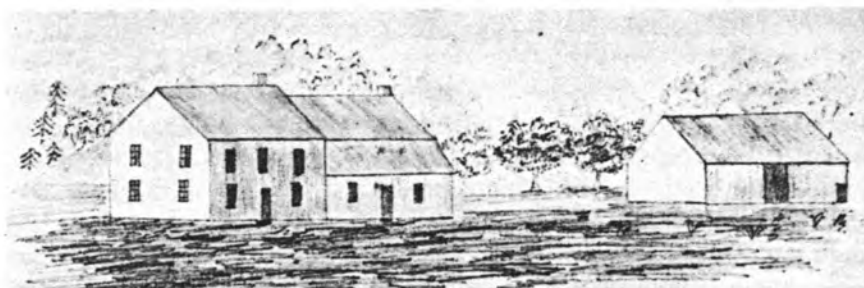
Historical Significance (Continued)

and principal of the North Rehoboth School. This propert was held by the Bliss family for two hundred thirty years from 1738 to 1968.

As a well-preserved farm complex which embodies the distinctive characteristics of mid 18th century vernacular dome tic architecture and 19th century ancillary farm buildings' design and construction traits, the Daniel Bliss Homestead meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places individually. For its long association with an early Rehoboth family and their farming activities, which by the late 19th century placed them among the most successful local dairy farmers, it also meets criteria A and B.



Staple to Invent



Above: Daniel Bliss built this house on Homestead Avenue for his son, Jacob, at the time of Jacob's marriage in 1757. The house remained in this family until recently.

Below: The Bliss house today, now owned by John Kirk.

From Snape, S.E. Mighty Liberty Men, 1976, p.134.

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

Donna M. Boyd 6/6/83

Attest

2. Allen, Elisha, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

3. Anawan Club Caretaker's House

Combined

Keeper

Attest

4. Anawan Club Clubhouse AND
-
- CARETAKER'S HOUSE

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

5. Anawan Rock

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

6. Baker House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

7. Bliss, Abiah, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

8. Bliss, Daniel, Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

9. Bowen, Nathan, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

10. Bramble Hill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 6/6/83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Bliss, Daniel, Homestead (Rehoboth MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 5/26/83-6/9/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/6/83Entered in the ☐ RETURNNational Register ☐ 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. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered

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 _____

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

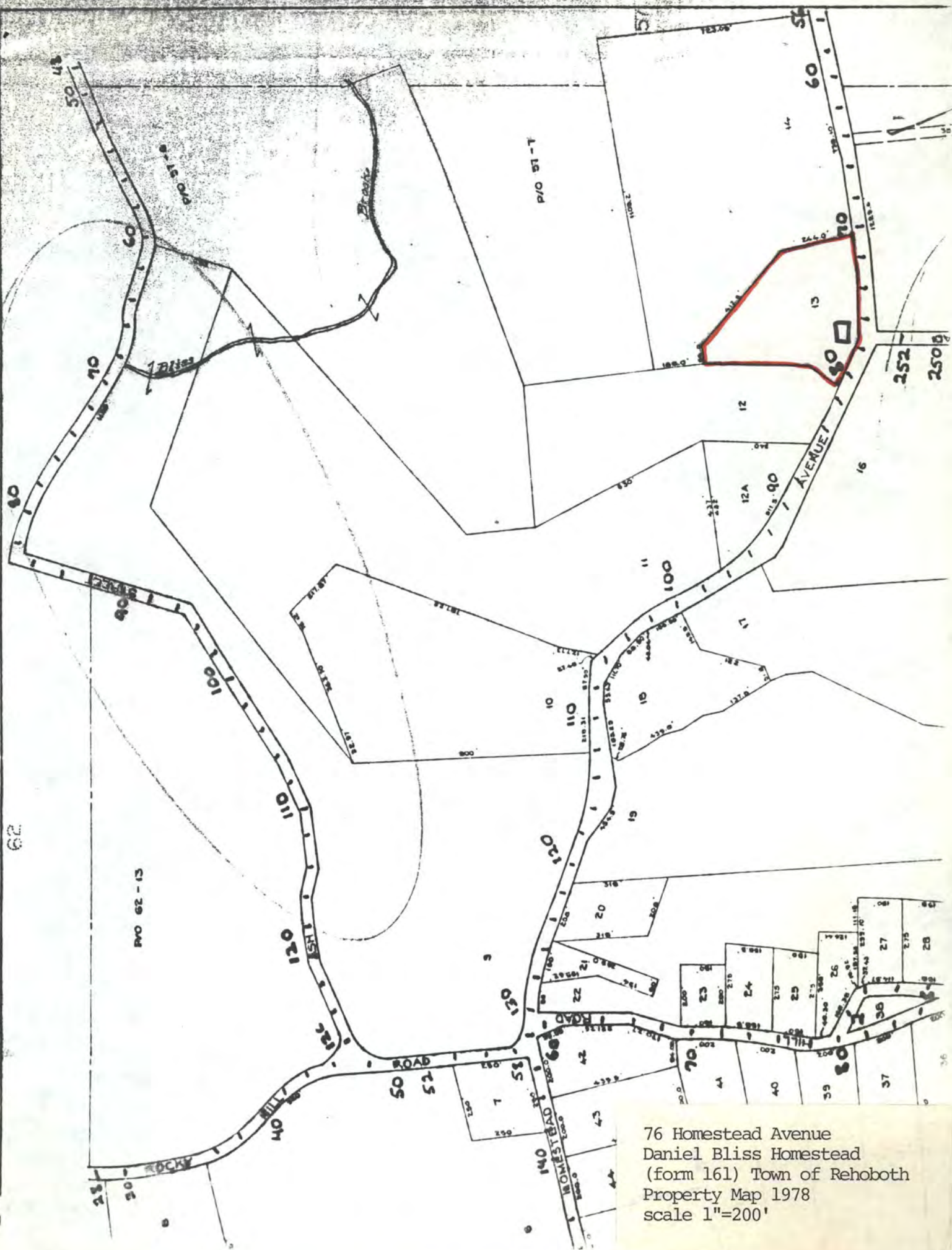
Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



RAHS # 161

40:2

Bliss, Daniel, Herstead
Rehab. MRA, MA



76 Homestead Avenue
 Daniel Bliss Homestead
 (form 161) Town of Rehoboth
 Property Map 1978
 scale 1"=200'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292