Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Merrimack
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Daniel Webster Family Home, "The Elms"

AND/OR HISTORIC: Daniel Webster Family Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South Main Street, R.F.D. #2

CITY OR TOWN: West Franklin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: New Hampshire | CODE:

COUNTY: Merrimack | CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious	~~Convent~~	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Sisters of the Holy Cross

STREET AND NUMBER: South Main Street, R.F.D. #2

CITY OR TOWN: West Franklin | STATE: New Hampshire | CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Merrimack County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Concord | STATE: New Hampshire | CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ 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)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [x] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

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 preceeding 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."[1] 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						OR	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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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

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:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GPO 931-894