NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME:

COMMON:
Casey (Silas) Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION:

STREET AND NUMBER:
Boston Neck Road, 0.3 miles north of Ferry Road, Saunderstown

CITY OR TOWN:
North Kingstown

STATE:
Rhode Island

COUNTY:
Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
<td>Yes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Transportation
- Private Residence
- Park
- Other (Specify)
- Museum
- Scientific
- House-Museum
- Other Specific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:

OWNER'S NAME:
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
141 Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
North Kingstown Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
80 Boston Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:
North Kingstown

STATE:
Rhode Island

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1957

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

FORM 10-300
(UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE all entries - complete applicable sections)
The Silas Casey Farm is a well-preserved, still-functioning example of an early eighteenth-century South County farm. At the heart of its acreage stands the Casey house, built by Silas Casey's father-in-law, Daniel Coggeshall between 1725 and 1750. To the north of the house a number of farm outbuildings, including a barn and various connecting sheds which house riding-horses, dairy cows, chickens, and other farm animals.

While the outbuildings have been replaced through the years, the Silas Casey "mansion house," as old records call it, has remained substantially as it was first built. It is a simple two-story clapboarded dwelling, timber-framed upon a very low cellar foundation, with four bays across its south or entrance front. Its roof is of a typical early (c.1720-1750) gable-on-hip-form.

Originally, the house must have been of the five-room, central-chimney plan, having two large rooms opening laterally off the front stair hall and three smaller rooms to the rear. On the first floor the original partitions in the rear have been removed to create one large room and an adjoining bath. A one-room, one-story ell has been projected from the north wall at the east end of the house—probably fairly early in its history.

The interior detail of the house is severely plain. The small front entry contains a stairway rising in three short runs; it has railings molded only on the outer face and sawn, flat S-shaped balusters and turnip finials, and the two posts are finished with heavy elongated acorn drops also of very early eighteenth century form. Corner-posts are finished with three-quarter-round beaded moldings, and panelling is restricted to the fireplace walls. On the first floor, the fireplace treatments in the two front rooms consist of a panelled cupboard to the right and a glass-doored cupboard above—the back of the latter slanting against the tapering chimney. Upstairs, the southeast room has a bolection-molded overmantel panel (the overmantel of the southwest room is missing—if, indeed, there ever was one); both rooms have bolection-molded chair-rails, which may have been found throughout the house originally.
7. Description

Site plan for the farm complex

- Horse barn
- Carriage house
- Corn crib
- Wooden fence
- Farm house
- Stone walls
- Bull pen
- Cow barn
- Pig sty
- Garage
- Root cellar
- Barn
## Statement of Significance

The Silas Casey Farm is a fine example of an 18th-century New England farm. Its working outbuildings, its fields bordered by handsome stone walls and populated by cows and horses, and its fine house are typical of what much of Rhode Island’s South County must have been like preceding and directly following the Revolution. In that period the area was the home of the landed merchant-farmer, and was distinguished by a height of culture and activity unknown anywhere else in Rhode Island at that date, with the exception of Newport (with which the South County had considerable contact by water).

The architecture of the Casey house combines the floor plan, framing, and overall simplicity of most mid-18th-century building with a few finer signs of prosperity: including the gable-on-hip roof and the two slant-back, glass-doored fireplace cupboards. The entry hall and stairway are noteworthy both for their handsomeness and for their typicality.

The house was the scene of a Revolutionary skirmish between sailors from a British vessel blockading the west channel of Narragansett Bay and patriotic scouts quartered for the night at the Casey Farm. The British surprised the patriots, but most of them escaped unharmed. The house, however, was riddled with bullet-holes—the parlor door still displaying one such puncture as a reminder.

The Caseys were a distinguished and public-serving family. Silas, for whom the farm was named, was a prosperous Narragansett Bay ship-owner, who sacrificed four of his vessels to Revolutionary privateering. His son, Wanton, fought in the Revolution and was a charter member of the Kentish Guards. Both men were members of the vestry in their churches. Throughout the history of the family, Casey men served in various military and naval capacities in various wars. General Thomas Lincoln Casey (d. 1896) fought in the Civil War and rose thereafter to the post of Chief of Engineers of the U. S. Army. In that position he was charged with strengthening the foundations and completing the top part of the Washington Monument; he also oversaw the construction of the Library of Congress building.

(See Continuation Sheet)
8. Significance

The Silas Casey Farm includes nearly three hundred acres of unspoiled woods and fields and for this reason, besides its historical and family associations, is important to any conservation considerations in Rhode Island. This property relates very congenially to public landholdings on the east (the University of Rhode Island campus) and also to the nearby Narrow River, currently an object of conservation efforts. The land, house and outbuildings of the Casey Farm are fortunately in the ownership and care of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.
## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Casey, Thomas Lincoln (General U. S. A.), Obituary of: In American Architect and Building News, April 18, 1896.


National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: *Old Houses In the South County of Rhode Island* (Providence, Rhode Island, 1932), pp. 5-7.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>41°30'47.47&quot;</td>
<td>71°26'.57.54&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41°30'49.12&quot;</td>
<td>71°24'52.97&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41°30'34.62&quot;</td>
<td>71°24'52.75&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41°30'33.30&quot;</td>
<td>71°26'57.32&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY**: 292 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY**

Ancelin V. Lynch, Surveyor-Researcher

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

John Brown House, 52 Power Street

Providence

Rhode Island, 02906

**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 [x] Local [ ]

**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**: 5/7/73

**ATTEST**

Keeper of The National Register

**DATE**: 5/7/73
**1. NAME**

**COMMON**

Casey (Silas) Farm

**AND/OR HISTORIC**


**NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)**


**2. LOCATION**

**STATE**

Rhode Island

**COUNTY**

Washington

**TOWN**

North Kingstown

**STREET AND NUMBER**

Boston Neck Road, 0.3 miles north of Ferry Road, Saunestown

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT**

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

**DATE**

1972

**NEGATIVE FILED AT**

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

View of farmhouse and outbuildings from the south-west.
**1. NAME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**STREET AND NUMBER**

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**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

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<td>The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 111 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

Describe view, direction, etc.

Exterior of farmhouse from the south-west.
1. NAME
   COMMON
   Casey (Silas) Farm
   AND/OR HISTORIC
   NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION
   STATE Rhode Island
   COUNTY Washington
   TOWN North Kingstown

   STREET AND NUMBER
   Boston Neck Road, 0.3 miles north of Ferry Road, Saunderstown

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
   DATE 1972
   NEGATIVE FILED AT The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 111 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Stairway in front entry.
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireplace wall in east parlour, first floor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Silas Casey Farm

**Geographical Coordinates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41° 30'</td>
<td>71° 24'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41° 30'</td>
<td>71° 24'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41° 30'</td>
<td>71° 26'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>41° 30'</td>
<td>71° 26'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boundary of the Farm:**

---

**Scale:** 1:24,000

**Contour Interval:** 10 feet

**Datum:** Mean Sea Level

**Depth Curves and Sounding in Feet—Datum is Mean Low Water**

**Shoreline Shown Represents the Approximate Line of Mean High Water**

**The Mean Range of Tide is Approximately 3.8 Feet**

---

**This Map Complies with National Map Accuracy Standards**

**For Sale by U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242**

**For Describing Topographic Maps and Symbols is Available on Request**
1. NAME

COMMON: Silas Casey Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Boston Neck Road
CITY OR TOWN: North Kingstown
STATE: Rhode Island

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.