

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service~~DEC 20 1989~~

JAN 02 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Historic Resources of Swansea, Massachusetts  
other names/site number Swansea Multiple Resource Area

## 2. Location

street & number Incorporated Town Limits of Swansea, Mass. N/A not for publication  
city, town Swansea N/A vicinity  
state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02777

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>155</u>	<u>70</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>20</u>	<u>4</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>184</u>	<u>77</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 2

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmage  
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical  
State Historical Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureauDec. 20, 1989  
Date Commission;In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. 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:)Ju

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 02-16-90



**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single DwellingSecondary StructureHotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single DwellingSecondary Structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

ColonialGeorgianFederal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Wood WeatherboardShingleroof Asphalt, Slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Swansea Multiple Resource Area encompasses an area of approximately 22 square miles. The predominantly rural, residential town is in the southeast region of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Swansea is separated from the industrial mill city of Fall River by the Taunton River and the Town of Somerset, which was once part of Swansea. On the north, Swansea is bordered by Dighton, Rehoboth, and Seekonk. The west border is approximately six miles of state line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, separating Swansea from Barrington and Warren, Rhode Island. Swansea's southern edge is on the Lee's and Cole's Rivers. Swansea is within the Southeast Regional Planning Area in Bristol County and is approximately sixty miles from Boston.

The present-day community was shaped primarily throughout the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, although settlement did occur as early as 1664. At the time of the 1667 land grant from the Court of Jurisdiction of New Plymouth, Swansea included the present day Somerset, then known as Shawomet; Barrington, Rhode Island; and most of Warren, Rhode Island.

Swansea is informally divided into five villages or areas, each having unique characteristics articulating the area's development. Because of the irregular shape of Swansea with a long northern border and southern peninsulas separated by rivers, the villages are separated from one another by large tracts of land, much of which is threatened by major development pressures. Beginning in the northwest corner of the town is Barneyville, also known as North Swansea. East of Barneyville on the northern edge near Rehoboth is Hortonville. Swansea Village is near the Somerset line and at the head of the Lee's River, while Luther's Corner, also known as Swansea Center, is north of the Cole's River and near primary transportation routes. South Swansea is the area bordering on the rivers, with easy access to Mt. Hope Bay. Gardner's Neck, Ocean Grove and Touisset are the three shoreline areas of South Swansea.

The topography has played an important role in the development of the five distinct villages/areas as well as the isolation of these areas from one another. The general contour of the terrain is gently rolling land with sandy

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6. Function or Use (Continued)

Historic Functions:

Agriculture/Subsistence:

Processing  
Storage  
Agricultural Field  
Animal Facility  
Agricultural Outbuilding

Education:

School  
Library

Government:

Town Hall  
Post Office

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

Manufacturing facility - Mill

Social:

Meeting Hall

Funerary:

Cemetery

Current Functions:

Agriculture:

Processing  
Storage  
Agricultural Field  
Animal Facility  
Agricultural Outbuilding

Education:

School  
Library

Government:

Town Hall  
Post Office

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

Vacant - Storage facility

Social:

Meeting Hall

Funerary:

Cemetery



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7. Description (Continued)

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century - Greek Revival

Late Victorian - Italianate

Second Empire - Mansard

Queen Anne - Queen Anne Revival

Shingle Style

Romanesque - Richardsonian Romanesque

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals - Colonial Revival - Georgian Revival

Elizabethan Revival

Late Gothic Revival - Collegiate Gothic

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements - Bungalow

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to gravelly soil and is part of the New England coastal lowlands. From the lowlands there are four significant outcroppings of conglomerate glacial rock, all of which served as native shelters. Due to the proximity to the Taunton River and Mt. Hope Bay, the several brooks and tidal rivers within Swansea are part of the most extensive and intricate drainage system in Southeastern Massachusetts. The brooks and streams of Swansea drain into either the Palmer River (aka Warren River) near Barneyville or the Cole's and Lee's Rivers at South Swansea. Located in North Swansea between Barneyville and Hortonville is the Warren Reservoir, which flows into the Kickamuit River. The river shore line at South Swansea has provided easy access to Mt. Hope Bay while contributing to the development of three distinct communities. Touissett is on the western bank of the Cole's River, while Ocean Grove is at its head and is connected to Gardener's Neck, which is a peninsula between the Cole's and Lee's Rivers.

Although Swansea was not formally incorporated as a town until the 1785 Act which declared every town as a 'body politic', it was settled as early as 1667 at which time the Township of Swansea was granted by the Court of Jurisdiction of New Plymouth to Captain Thomas Willet and his neighbors. The land grant included all of Swansea, Somerset, and the present Barrington, Rhode Island, and most of the present Warren, Rhode Island. The boundary between Swansea and Rehoboth was left to the discretion of the trustees of the two townships and this was agreed upon and established by 1670. Although there were several petitions for Somerset (then known as Shawomet) to be set off as a new town, Somerset was not incorporated until 1790. However, as early as 1717 Barrington, Rhode Island, was set off from Swansea, and Warren separated from Swansea in 1747.

**Historic Overview**

Today Swansea is a residential community with some remaining resort area, although most early 20th-century summer houses have been converted for year-round use. There is a substantial amount of commercial activity, primarily retail and service, most of which is located on the high-speed, four-lane highway that crosses the town, U.S. Route 6. Interstate 195 also cuts across the agricultural landscape from northwest to southeast. In 1967 it was reported that the population was 11,767. The 1987 population was 15,053, which indicates a steady increase in recent decades.

Prior to historic settlement of Swansea, there were Wampanoag and Pocasset settlements, in large part due to the wealth of natural

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resources in the area. The rivers and their accessibility to Mt. Hope Bay, and by extension Narragansett and Buzzards Bays, meant that the area was part of the larger system of native settlements.

European settlement first occurred in 1664 when the Reverend John Myles formed the Baptist church in what is now Rehoboth. The land of present-day Swansea was granted in 1667 and the name of the township was derived from the Welsh native town of the Rev. Myles, Swan Sea. Dispersed 17th- and 18th-century agricultural and fishing settlements were scattered throughout the area known as Swansea as is evidenced by the five distinct villages that evolved. Numerous family burial grounds are also evidence of the dispersed farmsteads. Limited industrial development occurred in Hortonville, the site of saw, grist and cotton mills; Barneyville, the location of a significant shipbuilding business; and Swansea Village, where several small industries followed after the Swansea Union Cotton Manufacturing Co. Throughout the 18th and 19th century, farming and fishing continued to be key to the economic base of Swansea.

With the coming of railroad transportation and advanced technology to surrounding areas such as Fall River and Taunton, Massachusetts, as well as Providence, Rhode Island, industrial activity in Swansea declined. Agriculture remained the mainstay of Swansea's economy, and summer home construction became a dominant feature in the town's late 19th-century development. Opening of a street railway system in the late 19th century and automobile corridors in the early 20th century contributed to suburbanization across the town, particularly on desirable shoreline properties at South Swansea.

The post-war development has radically changed parts of the expansive agricultural landscape that linked the historic villages of Swansea. The high-speed U.S. Route 6, lined with shopping centers, and widespread residential suburban development have become a threat to the historic landscape.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS****Early European Settlement (1664-ca. 1700)**

Colonial settlement of old Swansea occurred in 1664, soon after the Rev. John Myles relocated his Baptist church from Rehoboth to the area west of Barneyville in present Barrington, Rhode Island. Rev. Myles also built a garrison house (burned 1909) at Barneyville. At approximately the same time, King Philip conveyed the land of Mattapoissett to the south, later to be known as Gardner's Neck, to

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William Brenton of Newport. A garrison house was built (1664) and was destroyed during King Philip's War. In 1667 Captain Thomas Willet, the Rev. Myles, and their neighbors were granted the land that was to be known as Swansea by the Court of Jurisdiction of New Plymouth. The grant spanned five necks south of Rehoboth and Taunton, between the Taunton River on the east and the Providence River on the west. The Rev. Myles was directed to settle the northern boundary with Rehoboth. Land within the newly incorporated township was apportioned according to a three-rank system that is said to have been singular to Swansea. The 1670 order designated the selectmen to decide the rank of a new inhabitant, thereby giving one of the first rank one acre, of the second rank two acres, and of the third rank three acres of land.

While the early settlers used the native trails that had been established over the generations, water routes were of greater importance. The rivers provided direct routes to Mt. Hope and Narragansett Bays. Native trails spanned the northern section of Swansea following the present Marvel Street, Cummings Road, Locust Street, and Vinnicum and Old Providence Roads. To the south, native trails paralleled the Cole's and Lee's Rivers along Gardner's Neck Road.

Swansea was the location of the first bloodshed of King Philip's War. Although there were approximately forty garrison houses in Swansea by 1674, all were destroyed during the war beginning in June of 1675. Two sites of garrisons are marked: the Myles Garrison Site on Old Providence Road near the Palmer River (Barneyville) and the Bourne Garrison Site on Old Gardner's Neck Road (South Swansea).

**Growth in Old Swansea (ca. 1700-1790)**

As in most southeastern Massachusetts communities, this was a period of significant growth in which patterns of development were established. While agriculture and fishing continued to be the base of the economy, there were also forges and ironworks on the northern section of the Cole's River. Most of the population and settlement growth occurred near the Lee's, Cole's, and Palmer Rivers. A late 17th/early 18th-century settlement developed at Myles Bridge (also known as Miles Bridge), on the Palmer River, the site of one of the earliest bridges erected in Bristol County. The area is also the location of the ca. 1700 Baptist meetinghouse. Neither the original bridge nor meetinghouse is extant. Gardner's Neck (also known as Mattapoissett) between the Cole's and Lee's Rivers was purchased in 1693 by Samuel Gardner and Ralph Chapman, both of Newport, Rhode

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Island. New houses were erected here to replace those destroyed during King Philip's War, and Cedar Cove at the Cole's River was developed for the fishing and shipbuilding industries. Other settlement clusters occurred in Swansea Village, which was settled by the Zachariah Eddy family and by Jonathan Hill. Hill purchased 100 acres of farmland in 1720, and built his house (MHC #D-65) and several other substantial dwellings close to the road.

During this period, parts of Old Swansea were set off to form other towns. In 1717 Barrington separated from Swansea and in 1747 a large portion of the northwestern section was set off and became the Town of Warren, Rhode Island. It was not until the end of this period of development that Swansea achieved its present size when Somerset was set off in 1790. Through the 1700s there were many petitions requesting this division.

Construction of early religious buildings across Old Swansea ensured the continued development of the area. The First Baptist Church was organized in 1663. The first building located in what is now Barrington was destroyed during King Philip's War; the second one was moved to North Swansea in 1700 and replaced in 1717 with the building that preceded the present First Baptist Church (1848, MHC# 7) at Baptist Street and Route 6. The Church of Christ, Swansea (1833, MHC # 10), was organized in 1693 and built its first meetinghouse in 1720. This building, heavily damaged in a gale of 1815, was substantially rebuilt in 1833 and survives at the intersection of Route 6 and Maple Street. In 1701 the Swansea Meeting of Friends was organized and a meetinghouse was built in the eastern section of Swansea, now part of Somerset.

Roads connecting the settlement areas were improved. Old Warren Road was laid out to provide access from Swansea Center to Gardner's Neck and to Warren. Hales Hill Road, Dillon Lane, and Sharps Lot Road connected the 18th-century farms in the northeast section of town with Swansea Village and the rivers to the south. Stevens Road led from Main Street in Swansea Village to the Taunton River through what was later to become Somerset. Water transportation remained vital to the area.

**Swansea: The Five Villages Evolve (1790-1865)**

During this period Swansea was reduced to its present size due to the setting off of Somerset as a new town in 1790. Population figures do not accurately reflect the growth of the present town until after 1790 because earlier figures include the area that later

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became Somerset. Thus, the unremarkable growth suggested by a population of 1,933 in 1820 compared to 1,840 in 1765 is misleading. Between 1825 and 1875 there was a slow decline in population, which rebounded at the end of the nineteenth century. The decline in the mid 1800s was in large part caused by a shift away from local industry in favor of the rapidly expanding industrial cities nearby. In addition to the dispersed farmsteads that characterized Swansea during its Colonial development, small villages evolved around major road junctions or emerging locations of industrial or harbor activity. The road network did not change significantly during this period of development and water routes continued to be a primary means of transportation.

Swansea Village, then known as "Scrabbletown," was an active community near the site of the Swansea Union Cotton Manufacturing Co. (established 1814) on Lewin Brook. In 1815 Israel Brayton built a general store on the corner of Elm and Main Streets, and other village-oriented businesses followed. In 1840 a mill at the end of Wood Avenue (then known as Paper Mill Lane and later to be called Ledge Road) was erected for the manufacturing of paper.

The Swansea Post Office, established in 1800, was moved from the home of the first postmaster Reuben Chace ("The Buttonwood," west of the Village) to Swansea Village in 1814. At least one of the town's twelve one-room schoolhouses was built at Swansea Village. In 1838 the school system was redistricted into ten independent district schools, one of which was in the Village. Other early institutional construction included the Union Meeting House (1830) on the site of the present Town Hall. In 1846 Christ Church, an Episcopal parish, was organized and in 1847 a board and batten, Gothic Revival style building was constructed in the Village.

Residential construction concentrated at the Elm Street-Main Street intersection, ranging west along Main Street with equal numbers of 2 1/2-story houses and 1 1/2-story capes surviving. In the 1850s the Birch/Stevens family settled in Swansea Village, building a "mansion on the Village Street" in 1855 (MHC #D-61). The Stevens family became Swansea's primary benefactors later in the century.

The Barney Shipbuilding Co. (1802-1861) on the Palmer River was the catalyst for the development of Barneyville, or North Swansea. The Barney family settled this rural area by ca. 1750; the family homestead (MHC #A-3) is extant and set back on the east bank of the river. In the late 1700s, Jonathan Barney began building small boats for local farmers and fishermen. In 1802 his son, Maso, took

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over and transformed Barneyville into a well-known shipbuilding center. The industry thrived until the late 1850s. By 1861 the shipbuilding company had closed due to the financial panic of 1858 coupled with the increasing demand for iron ships.

Hortonville in the 18th century was characterized by farmsteads with expansive agricultural fields. Family burial grounds attest to the long-term presence of some of the village's original families. In the first half of the 19th century, several mills were established on the Cole's River, including the Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Co. (1806-1836) and grist mills. The cotton factory and dam were constructed by Oliver Chace from Rehoboth and continued operating after his 1809 departure for the Fall River Manufacturing Co. Cotton manufacturing in the village ended when the factory burned in 1836; the factory was not rebuilt. Hortonville grew slowly, acquiring its own schoolhouse and religious organization, the First Universalist Society, by 1838.

Luther's Corner, also known as Swansea Center, evolved around a major road intersection. Old Warren Road was part of an important east-west route from Providence to Fall River; Maple Avenue and Pearse Road were on the north-south transportation route from Rehoboth to Mt. Hope Bay. Members of the Luther family had settled in the area in the early 18th century. However, it was a later generation that developed the commercial center at this major crossroad in the early 19th century. James Luther built a tavern (MHC #B-19), which was a stagecoach stop in the early 1800s, while another family member built a store (MHC #B-17) on another corner. Other development was limited to farmsteads.

South Swansea, of which Gardner's Neck is the most prominent area, was of primary importance for its association with the local fishing industry. Menhaden were a common catch and were used for the menhaden oil, which had become a substitute for whale oil at the end of the War of 1812 when whaling had been interrupted. Settlement of South Swansea before the Civil War was confined to dispersed farms, ranged primarily along Pearse Road at Touisset and Gardner's Neck Road on the Neck. As a peninsula between the Cole's and Lee's Rivers, the Neck was relatively isolated, its only connection to the rest of town being a dirt road leading north to Swansea Village.

**Swansea: The Emerging Residential Suburb (1865-1939)**

The introduction and expansion of rail service to the area in the third quarter of the 19th century contributed to the centralization

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of industry in surrounding cities. This in turn precipitated a decline in Swansea's industries. The same rail service brought residential development to Swansea in the form of summer resort construction and year-round suburban commuters' homes. In 1865 the Fall River-Providence Railroad was completed and passed through South Swansea. The electrification of the steam train in the 1890s revolutionized this mode of transportation, and the corresponding impact on residential development was seen particularly in South Swansea, where stations were built on Gardner's Neck and at Touisset. By 1901 the Providence and Fall River Street Railroad Co. operated electric trolley cars from Fall River to Providence. The "Snake Line" trolley that travelled along the present Route 6 carried commuters from Swansea to Fall River. In the early 1900s, Route 6 was a significant thoroughfare with the beginnings of what would become major commercial strip development. Route 6 became a U.S. Highway in the 1920s, linking cities such as Providence, Fall River, and New Bedford. Use of waterways for transportation was confined to freight traffic.

From the 1870 population of 1,294, there was a steady increase to 1,456 in 1890. By 1915, there was a substantial increase to 2,558 persons living in Swansea, no doubt a result of the town's suburbanization due to the electric trolley and improved rail service. The suburban and summer home community was concentrated close to the shoreline at Gardner's Neck, Touisset, and Ocean Grove. Limited residential growth also occurred at Swansea Village and the area immediately east. Increased suburbanization and subdivision during the early 1900s is evidenced by the number of new schools built in the 1920s and 1930s. Five new public school buildings and two new parochial buildings were constructed by 1936.

Swansea Village emerged as the town's civic core, and industry there declined. The site of the former paper mill on Wood Avenue (now known as Ledge Road) was not used for many years until the late 1800s when a new mill (MHC #D-72) housed several short-lived business ventures, including a bakery, a bleachery, and in the early twentieth century the Swansea Print Works. In 1891, village resident Frank S. Stevens financed the construction of the present Town Hall (MHC #D-67). After his death in 1898, money became available for the Public Library building (MHC #D-66) and Christ Church (MHC #D-68). In the early 1900s, his widow, Elizabeth Case Stevens, donated the Frank S. Stevens School (1908, MHC #D-45) and the Joseph Case High School (1927, MHC #D-46). Other estate funds were used to establish the Frank S. Stevens Home for Boys at the family mansion after Mrs. Stevens' death.

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Barneyville became the site of a jewelry manufacturing company, which was established in the old shipyard lot and later moved to Old Providence Road. Daniel R. Child (1827-1914), a former ship's carpenter, manufactured buttons and sleeve links. D. R. Child & Co. was later known as the North Swansea Manufacturing Co. Workers commuted to the factory on the street railway until after World War I, when the railroad was discontinued and the factory closed down. This was the end of new development and growth in Barneyville, which then became strictly a residential community.

Hortonville, also known as Swansea Factory, continued to develop as a separate village despite the 1836 burning of the cotton manufactory. Its distance from Swansea Village and the railways was a determining factor for the continued self-sustaining growth of this small village in the northern section of Swansea. A schoolhouse, a post office (established in 1885), a church for the Universalist Society of Swansea and Rehoboth, and several stores were clustered at the eastern end of Locust Street near the grist and saw mills on Hortonville Road. With the closing of these mills and the centralization of town services by the early 20th century, Hortonville reverted to a residential and agricultural community.

Luther's Corner/Swansea Center was a focal point due to its location on the street railway and proximity to the train route and resort development. The area continued to grow, and by 1889 a separate post office was established at Luther's Corner. The first Roman Catholic parish in Swansea, Saint Dominic's Church, was established and located near Swansea Center in 1911. By that time the number of foreign-born in Swansea had increased and the new parish ministered to a number of French Canadians. Swansea's civic focus had shifted to Swansea Village by the early 20th century and commercial enterprises lined Route 6 to the north. Most of the commercial buildings at Luther's Corner were converted to residential use by ca. 1920.

Major growth in Swansea during this period of development was in South Swansea. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the fishing industry continued to thrive as fish fertilizers became an important byproduct of the menhaden oil industry at the W. J. Brightman & Co. on Cole's River at Touisset. At the turn of the century, real estate development escalated. The Colony at Gardener's Neck (MHC #F147-152) was developed by David Anthony of Fall River between 1896 and 1902. At the same time a picnic grove, Shady Isle Park (1902, MHC #E-130), was established at Ocean Grove and the Wilbur Land Company created a subdivision. To accommodate

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the rising population, the South Swansea Union Church, Gardner's Neck Road (1916, MHC #F-138) was established in 1916.

**Recent Development (post 1939)**

Population has increased rapidly since World War II, jumping from 2,300 in 1922 to 11,767 (1966) and most recently 14,757 (1985). Most of the residential growth until the 1950s was concentrated on Gardner's Neck and Touisset. In the 1940s, many summer homes were winterized. Construction in the 1960s of the New England Power Company across Lee's River on Brayton Point in Somerset presented an aesthetic and environmental blight to South Swansea. Real estate values fell and the Lee's River became polluted. The only significant modern residential development has been Smoke Rise, a government housing project of the 1960s. Also in the 1960s, Interstate 195 was cut through Swansea, crossing south of Route 6 and northeast of Luther's Corner.

Swansea Village has remained the town's civic center, and commercial properties there have been converted to residential use. The only extant industrial property is the Swan Finishing Company at the end of Ledge Road, now a commercial storage facility. The commercial activity of Swansea is now concentrated along Route 6. In the late 1970s, the Swansea Mall became the first mall in the area. Despite the development pressures and the ever-increasing commercialization of Route 6, there are large expanses of intact rural landscapes remaining in Swansea. The most prominent example is the 300+ acre Baker's Farm on Locust Street in Hortonville, where a slaughterhouse currently operates. Barneyville and Hortonville have become primarily residential areas.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The individual properties and districts included in the proposed Multiple Resource area nomination represent the full range of Swansea's extant 18th, 19th, and early 20th-century architecture. The following discussion is organized by building type.

**Residential Buildings**

The five village centers at Barneyville, Hortonville, Luther's Corner, Swansea Village, and South Swansea have evolved over the course of the four major periods of development. Examples of each period survive in nearly all of the villages.

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The prodominante building type is the single-family, wood frame, gabled dwelling, sheathed in clapboards or shingles. Georgian and Federal-style dwellings are 1 1/2-story cottages or 2 1/2-story houses. Most are near Hortonville, Barneyville, or Swansea. Construction in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, generally 1 1/2-story, gable-end or pitched roof dwellings, is seen less frequently than the Georgian and Federal-style buildings. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a surge in construction of Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival houses in the town, particularly in South Swansea. Most of these are shingled and represent the summer resort and commuter life of Swansea. Well-preserved examples of the 1 1/2-story bungalow bearing Craftsman or Prairie-style influences also survive.

There are no surviving examples of dwellings built in the early settlement period prior to 1700. In part this is due to the destruction of the First Period garrison houses during the King Philip's War in 1675. One site marker indicates the Site of the Myles Garrison House at Old Providence Road (1912 marker, MHC #A-5). There is a marker for the Bourne Garrison Site on Old Gardner's Neck Road, across from the North Gardner Cemetery (MHC #800); however, the exact location of the site is in question. Most construction that occurred after King Philip's War was likely similar to the remaining early Colonial capes and Georgian houses.

The most common 18th-century house forms in Swansea are the 1 1/2-story cape and 2 1/2-story double-pile house of wood frame construction. Most are sheathed in clapboards, although some are shingle clad. Variations in the number of bays range from the three-bay half house to a four-bay three-quarter house to the traditional five-bay, center entrance house. Most roofs are gabled although there are several gambrel roofs, which were more common to southeast Massachusetts than other regions of the Commonwealth. There is almost no elaboration of architectural detail. The architectural style and period is Georgian, although all houses of this period are of a vernacular form and accentuate the limited means and practical way of life of the time.

There are at least eleven 1 1/2-story cottages in the Cape Cod tradition remaining from the 18th century, half of which have gambrel roofs. Nearly all are five bays. An exception is the Joseph Gardner House, 1205 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1790, MHC #F-143), which started out as a four-bay cottage with center chimney and gabled roof. In 1877, it was enlarged to nearly double its size in 1877 with the 17-foot extension, including a new entrance door

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and two window bays. The Daggett House, 22-24 Barneyville Road (1771-1774, MHC #A-2), believed to be the earliest double-chimney house in Swansea, is slightly different due to the six-bay, two-door facade of the double house. The earliest surviving cape is the five-bay Sisson House, 2 Seaview Avenue (ca. 1710, MHC #122) with steeply pitched roof and later connecting ells. Examples of vernacular cottages with gambrel roofs include the Luther House, 177 Market Street (ca. 1740, MHC #8), a shingled five-bay, center-chimney dwelling, with 12/12 sash, and the Samuel Gardner House, 1035 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1768, MHC #F-141), a clapboarded, five-bay, center-entry house with added 19th-century dormers.

Most of the 2 1/2-story vernacular Georgian houses in Swansea are five-bay, with one or two interior chimneys and clapboard sheathing. All have gabled roofs with the exception of the John Brown IV House, 703 Pearse Road (ca. 1752, MHC #120), which has a gambrel-style wood shingle roof. The clapboard house has 12/12 sash and dentils. The enclosed entrance portico, dormers, second-story tripartite window, and the one-story projecting box bay on the side are all 1932 additions. Situated near a streamlike section of the Cole's River in Hortonville is the Benjamin Martin House, 24 Locust Street (1757, MHC #C-36), a fine example of the Georgian farmstead with five bays, 6/6 sash, center chimney, and an enclosed projecting entrance portico. In Barneyville, the Barney House, 166 Old Providence Road (ca. 1750, MHC #A-3) is another fine example of a five-bay, Georgian house with 9/9 sash on the first floor, corner quoins, and squared pilasters flanking the center entrance. While most of the town's Georgian dwellings are five-bay, center-entry buildings, there are a few that started as three-bay half-houses with an end-bay entrance. Sometimes additions have been made in such a way that the entrance bay is not in the center. The Slade House, 167 Elm Street (1755, MHC #D-92), appears to have been a three-bay half house with the entrance at the middle bay. Two bays were added, forming a five-bay house with an off-centered entrance. Short's Tavern, 282 Market Street (ca. 1742, MHC #9), was also a three-bay dwelling that was expanded to four bays. The massing and scale of the traditional Georgian house is retained.

The five-bay, 1 1/2-story Cape Cod cottage and the 2 1/2-story Georgian/Federal house continued to be the two most common building forms in Swansea until well into the mid-19th century. By the early 1800s, Greek Revival details were beginning to appear on these building forms. Swansea Village, Barneyville, and Hortonville have several examples of Federal-style houses including the James Mason

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House, 15 Main Street ca. (1795, MHC #D-63), which is a 2 1/2-story Federal house with twin interior chimneys and 6/6 and 9/9 sash, and a pedimented door surround flanked by full-length sidelights. In Hortonville, the Marvel House, 5 Locust Street (ca. 1810, MHC #C-37), is a five-bay Federal house with a two-story side ell. Barneyville's most prominent house, the Mason Barney House, 1 Barneyville Road (1802-12, MHC #A-1), is an example of an early 19th-century Federal house that was updated in the late 19th century with Colonial Revival details. Nevertheless, it maintains its Federal massing and prominent location at the intersection of Barneyville and Old Providence Roads.

Vernacular capes with Greek or Gothic Revival details survive at some villages, although Swansea lacks high-style examples of either style. In Hortonville are two capes on Locust Street, each of 1 1/2 stories, five bays, with Greek Revival sidelights flanking the central entrance doors. They are the Mason Farmstead, 831 Locust Street (1822, MHC #C-24), and the Daniel Hale House, 416 Locust Street (ca. 1845, MHC #C-25). Later variations to the vernacular cottage form that are found in Swansea Village are the Gothic Revival center-gable house with roundheaded gable window and Greek Revival door surround and sidelights, as articulated in the two dwellings at 64 and 72 Main Street (ca. 1850, MHC #D-57; ca. 1870, MHC #D-56).

By the 1830s and 1840s, the gable-end, side-hall-plan, 1 1/2-story Greek Revival cottage was appearing in Swansea. Again, most of the remaining examples are in or near the villages. On Main Street in Swansea Village are three bracketed Italianate versions of the form. The Stevens Cottages, 86, 92, and 96 Main Street (ca. 1860, MHC #D-54, D-53, D-51).

The most elaborate residential building in Swansea is the Italianate Stevens Mansion, 24 Main Street (1855, MHC #D-61) in Swansea Village. Built by Julia Chace Birch and James Birch, the house soon became the Stevens Mansion following the death of Birch and the marriage of Mrs. Birch to Frank Stevens. The mansion is an important example of the style with a hipped roof, raking cornice with decorative brackets, paired roundheaded windows at the third-story level, and wrap around porch. The mansion and adjacent outbuildings are in excellent repair and retain their architectural integrity.

From 1865 to the early 1900s, there was a fair amount of residential development in Swansea characterized by new building forms and

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architectural styles. Residential construction in Hortonville was limited to simple 1 1/2-story, five-bay cottages with Italianate detail in doorhoods, wrap porches with brackets, and cornice brackets. The William J. Hale House, 410 Locust Street (ca. 1894, MHC #C-26), the Dexter Nichols House, 67 Locust Street (ca. 1870, MHC #C-32), and 39 Locust Street (ca. 1890, MHC #C-34) are all examples of this type of dwelling.

In Swansea Village where there was a good deal of civic building construction during this period, the Colonial Revival style was used to develop properties in keeping with the surroundings. However, prior to this late 19th and early 20th-century construction, the basic five-bay cottage form was still used with varying degrees of elaboration. There are few dwellings with mansard roofs in Swansea, among them a cottage, the Thomas Chace House, 52 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D-59).

The 2 1/2-story building form continued to be used, as is demonstrated in the Colonial Revival conversion of Case Hall into the Hawkins House, 757 Stevens Road (ca. 1870/1905, MHC #D-71). Once a barn and meeting hall, the new house has five bays of 6/6 sash, a projecting curvilinear portico with second-story balustrade and tripartite, second-story window, and templar side gables with Palladian-style windows in the gable ends. The Colonial Revival-style suburban dwelling with gambrel roof oriented to the street is represented by 147, 155, and 157 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D-89). These shingled dwellings have the side-hall plan of the mid 19th century gable-end cottages. Later examples of the style include the side-gambrel Dutch Colonial with full-width shed dormer, seen at 127 Elm Street (ca. 1920, MHC #D-88).

Also represented, in Swansea Village especially, is the bungalow house type. At 90 Elm Street (ca. 1915, MHC #D-82) is one of the town's few examples of a simple Craftsman-style shingled bungalow with gabled roof, exposed rafter ends, integral porch, and short columns. More unusual versions of the building type include a concrete block bungalow with clipped gable roof at 108 Ledge Road (1908, MHC #D-74), and a fieldstone bungalow with hipped tile roof at 36 Riverview Avenue (1913, MHC #F-137).

The large part of new construction as well as the diversity of styles is best represented by the summer houses built in South Swansea at the end of the 19th century. One of the first summer houses built on Gardner's Neck is the David M. Anthony House, 98 Bay Point (1895, MHC #F-149). Constructed in the Queen Anne style, the

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house is shingle-clad, has a hipped roof, cross-gables, a wrap porch, and corner tower. One of the most popular seaside styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries is the Shingle Style, which is best represented by the dwellings on Gardener's Neck known as the Colony. Designed by Fall River architect Edward Marvell are 15 and 28 Mattapoissett Avenue (1898, MHC #F-147; 1896, MHC #F-148), both of which have gambrel roofs and little elaboration other than shed dormers and plain wraparound porches.

In addition to the bungalow, other suburban house forms constructed in Swansea include the large, four-square Colonial Revival house, such as the Francis L. Gardner House, 1129 Gardner's Neck Road (1903, MHC #F-142). This shingle-clad, 2 1/2-story, hipped-roof dwelling has a full-width porch and second-story balcony with urn-shaped finials on the corner balusters. The house was also designed by local Fall River architect Edward I. Marvell.

There are very few architect-designed houses in Swansea; most are located in South Swansea, particularly the resort and suburban area of Gardner's Neck. One of note is the Harold Horton Anthony House, 132 Bay Point Road (1922, MHC #F-150). Designed by R. Clipston Sturgis of Boston, the Georgian Revival house is unusual for its use of brick in a shoreline summer house. Details include the two-story projecting portico with Doric columns, the gabled wall dormers flanking the main entrance, and the enclosed columned porch on the rear elevation between angled side wings.

### Institutional Buildings

Although there are no remaining 18th-century churches or meeting houses in Swansea, there are records that describe the buildings that preceded certain 19th-century edifices. There was a 1717 structure for the First Baptist Church and Society, said to be 40 feet long and 33 feet wide, unplastered and open to the roof until 1802. This congregation was the first Baptist Church in Massachusetts and the fourth in America. The first building on the site of Church of Christ, Swansea (now the First Christian Congregational Church), was built in 1720 and had two platforms of brick for charcoal fires, an unusual feature for churches.

Several institutional buildings were constructed from 1790 to 1865. In 1807 twelve school districts were established, and for each there was a one-story, gable-end structure with three bays in the gable end. None survive. The only schoolhouse to survive since the mid 1800s is the Hortonville School, 77 Locust Street, (ca. 1830, MHC

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#C-31). With two entrances in the gable end, the small one-story clapboard building with ornamental doorhoods is the only example of a pre-20th century school in Swansea. Other buildings from the same period that are no longer extant include the 1838 Liberty Hall/Union Chapel of the First Universalist Society in Hortonville, the Union Meeting House, which was located on the site of the Town Hall, and the 1847 board and batten, Gothic Revival building for the Christ Episcopal Church at Swansea Village.

Two Greek Revival churches survive in Swansea. The Church of Christ, Swansea (now First Christian Congregational Church), G.A.R. Highway (1833, MHC #10) is a white, clapboard, templar gable-end building with three bays, two stories, a center entrance, and a fine three-staged square and octagonal steeple and belfry. The First Baptist Church, Baptist Street (1848, MHC #7) also has a templar gable end and three-bay facade. There is only one story, and the truncated tower is squared and simple, unlike the attenuated design of the tower on the earlier church.

During major suburban growth in Swansea from the late 19th century through the 1930s, a number of civic and religious buildings were constructed. Swansea Village emerged as the civic core of Swansea, mostly due to the financial assistance of well-known local benefactor Frank Stevens (continued after his death by Mrs. Stevens). Three stone buildings were constructed, all designed by Boston architects. The first was the Town Hall, Main Street (1891, MHC# D-67), a Romanesque Revival building designed by J. Merrill Brown and constructed of fieldstone with Longmeadow brownstone trim. Stevens bequeathed a portion of his estate to fund buildings for the Swansea Public Library and the Christ Church. Buildings were designed by Boston architect Henry Vaughan. The Frank Stevens Library, Main Street (1900, MHC #D-66), is a multi-gabled Elizabethan Revival building of granite and Potsdam sandstone. Christ Church, Main Street (1900, MHC #D-68), is also constructed of granite in the late Gothic Revival style. Mrs. Stevens also funded construction of the two schools in the village. Frank Stevens School (1908, MHC #D-45) was designed in the Georgian Revival style by Henry Vaughan. The 1 1/2-story height, rectangular massing with portico and brick wings, and octagonal cupola are elements that reappear in later Swansea Schools. A major building is the town's first high school (1927, MHC #D-46). Designed by James Ritchie, this prominent 2 1/2-story Georgian Revival brick building is the largest historic school in Swansea.

A Shingle style club building was built as the Dorothy Brown Rebekah

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Lodge, 98 Ledge Road (1899, MHC #D-75). The shingled building has an open three-bay, double-pedimented porch projecting from the gable end. Another Shingle Style structure is the Gardner's Neck South Swansea Union Church, Gardner's Neck Road (1916, MHC #F-138). There are Victorian Gothic elements in the pointed arched windows and the complex plan.

Most 20th-century institutional buildings in Swansea are constructed of brick and incorporate elements of Colonial Revival or Georgian Revival design. In addition to schools at Swansea Village, most notable are three elementary schools--Gardner (1924), Joseph Luther (1930), and Mason Barney (1936). St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (1922) on Ocean Grove Avenue displays a Moderne influence in its stylized steeple.

**Commercial and Industrial Properties**

Few buildings originally constructed for commercial use are extant, and none continue to serve their original intent. All reflect the domestic scale and styles of architecture. The Luther Store, Old Warren Road (1815-1818, MHC #B-17), is unusual in Swansea for its saltbox design. The store, the earliest known example of brick construction in Swansea, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Built and operated as a tavern from 1812 to 1857 was the James Luther Tavern, 159 Old Warren Road (ca. 1812, MHC #B-19). The five-bay, center-entry building is similar to residential buildings of the same period with its overhanging gable ends.

Only one industrial property survived the expansion and changes of Swansea. Although the early mill structures are not extant, a part of the late 19th-century industrial complex that is now Swan Finishing Co., Ledge Road (ca. 1889, MHC #D-72) remains. Many small businesses preceded the present one on this Lewin Brook site; and several mill buildings, no longer extant, preceded the present brick and wood structures. The two-story warehouse structure with low-pitched roof and tower resembles those of early 20th-century mill complexes.

**Cemeteries**

Swansea contains over 40 public and private cemeteries and family burial grounds. Four--the Hale Family Ground (1784) at Hortonville, and the Eddy Family Ground (1696), Christ Church Cemetery (1847), and the Old Burial Ground (ca. 1737) at Swansea Village--are

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included in the historic districts at their respective villages due to their associations with important early families or events in the development of those villages and therefore meets exception D of the National Register of Historic Places. Each is marked by a stone wall, and the Christ Church Cemetery has a stone entrance gate with Gothic Revival-style pointed arches.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

The potential for archaeological resources is an important factor in the future planning of Swansea. Due to the known pre-historic settlements, the proximity to important waterways used by the native population, and the lack of major development projects in the area, there are significant resources that have yet to be studied. There have been inconclusive surveys done since the 1939 founding of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. Woodland Period sites have been noted in South Swansea along the river outlets to Mt. Hope Bay. There are known Indian burial grounds at Gardner's Neck. There are ten documented sites in the South Swansea region and six additional sites have been classified in the northern section of town. Based on regional studies, the Taunton River basin has a high archaeological site density potential.

**METHODOLOGY**

The Swansea Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on a comprehensive communitywide survey, which was administered by the Swansea Historical Commission and carried out by preservation consultant Katherine Flynn. The project was financed by a matching Survey and Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The survey was conducted on a townwide basis with concentration in the five identified villages: Barneyville, Hortonville, Luther's Corner, Swansea Village, and South Swansea.

The survey methodology followed the Massachusetts Historical Commission guidelines and five types of survey forms were used: Form A for each village, outlining an overview pattern of development for the area; and individual property forms including Form B for buildings, Form C for site markers (as monuments), Form E for burial grounds, and Form H for landscape features or parks. The Area forms help to identify each cluster of development. Individual properties within the areas are documented on the appropriate type of individual form.

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Katherine Flynn was retained to prepare this Multiple Resource Area nomination. All surveyed properties and areas were studied and evaluated according to the National Register criteria. Additional site visits were made to each potential property to determine appropriate boundaries and to affirm the integrity. Districts reflecting historic and architectural development described in the survey were identified for inclusion in the Multiple Resource Area nomination. Of primary consideration was the architectural integrity of a property and its ability to contribute to an understanding of the local development through its architecture. Of primary consideration was the architectural intergrity of a property and its ability to contribute to an understanding of the local development through its architecture.

For the purposes of the National Register nomination, periods of development were established to recall pivotal points in Swansea's history: Early European Settlement (1664-ca.1700), Growth in Old Swansea (ca.1700-1790), The Five Villages Evolve (1790-1865), and The Emerging Residential Suburb (1865-1939). Early documented settlement of Swansea occurred on Gardner's Neck and in the Barneyville vicinity in 1664. Old Swansea grew and its original boundaries were refined in the period between the aftermath of King Philip's War and 1790, the year Somerset was set off as a separate town. The mid 19th-century date of 1865 marks the introduction of railroad transportation in Swansea, which generated summer home and later suburban development.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
 Agriculture  
 Religion  
 Exploration / Settlement  
 Community Development  
 Education  
 Industry

Period of Significance

1664 - 1790

1790 - 1865

1865 - 1939

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person N/A

Architect/Builder

Vaughn, Henry; Beattie, William

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

INTRODUCTION

The Swansea Multiple Resource Area includes 24 individual properties and five districts for a total of 184 resources proposed for the National Register. As a group, the nominated properties chart the growth of Swansea from a dispersed colonial settlement dependent on farming and fishing to a flourishing suburban and resort community in the early 20th century. Some resources are also associated with the town's limited 19th-century industrial activity, including shipbuilding and cotton cloth and jewelry manufacturing. Five villages of varying architectural cohesiveness emerged as foci during the town's development: Swansea Village, Hortonville, Barneyville, Luther's Corner, and South Swansea. In addition, scattered development that characterized the routes between and beyond the villages survives today. A majority of the town's extant historic buildings are residences, many of them vernacular interpretations of period high styles. The nomination also includes architecturally significant institutional and religious buildings, most of them concentrated at the town's civic core at Swansea Village. As a whole, the Swansea Multiple Resource Area retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, and meets Criteria A and C and Exceptions A and D of the National Register on the Local level.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PATTERNSEarly European Settlement (1664-ca. 1700)

Early settlement of Old Swansea focused on Mattapoissett, located between the Lee's and Cole's Rivers at present South Swansea, and New Meadow Neck, located in the Barneyville vicinity between the Palmer (also known as Warren) River and Barrington River. William Brenton of Newport purchased Mattapoissett, now Gardner's Neck, from King Philip in 1664. Evacuated in 1675 during King Philip's War, Mattapoissett reverted to wilderness for almost twenty years. In

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

Architect/Builder:

Edward I. Marvell Fall River, MA  
R. Clipston Sturgis, Boston, MA  
J. Memill Brown, Boston, MA

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1693 Brenton's sons sold the land to Samuel Gardner and Ralph Chapman of Newport. The Gardner family was primarily responsible for settlement and farming of the Neck well into the 18th century. Also in 1664, a group of Baptists led by the Rev. John Myles and Capt. Thomas Willet settled the area straddling the present Swansea and Barrington (Rhode Island) boundary, after being forced to leave Rehoboth due to religious persecution. Arriving at New Meadow Neck, Myles oversaw construction of both a Baptist meetinghouse in present Barrington and his own garrisoned house at Barneyville. In 1667 the two settlements were joined under a single land grant from the Court of Jurisdiction of New Plymouth to Myles, Willet, and their neighbors. This grant for the town of Swansea covered the entire area south of Rehoboth and Taunton, between the Taunton River to the east and the Providence River to the west.

Consisting of five main peninsulas or necks separated by six rivers emptying into Narragansett Bay--Taunton, Lee's, Cole's, Palmer, Barrington, and Providence (east to west)--Old Swansea was well-suited to a fishing economy, which complemented the agricultural activity away from the shoreline. Proximity to these major water resources attracted the settlers and offered them a viable environment.

The responsibility for the disposition of land to the early settlers was given to Captain Willet and five others as part of the formalization of the town government. Records of Town Meeting from 1670 indicate a three-rank plan, in which each newcomer to Swansea would be assigned to a rank and land would be apportioned according to one's rank; one acre to persons of the first rank, two acres to second-rank persons, and three acres to those of the third rank. Religious tolerance and a structured educational system were part of the initial settlement. In 1673, provision was made for a school and schoolmaster's salary. The establishment of schools was indicated in the early partition of lands, in which a lot was reserved for a pastor, a teacher, and a schoolmaster. In 1673, the Rev. John Myles, who was the local pastor, became the first schoolmaster, thus laying the foundation for the Swansea public schools.

Growth in Old Swansea (ca. 1700-1790)

With the advent of the new century came the development of permanent settlement. Religious institutions were established and houses of worship were built. Schooling, which had only started before it was interrupted by the 1675 King Philip's War, developed an ongoing

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program in the early 1700s. Farmsteads, family burial grounds, and other dwellings, many still extant, were constructed.

The Baptist Meeting House, having been built in what is now Barrington, was moved to North Swansea in 1700 and rebuilt in 1717. This religious institution, upon which Swansea was founded, was firmly established. In 1701, a Friends Meeting was organized. And in 1720, the Church of Christ, Swansea, which had been established in 1693, built its first meetinghouse in the northwest part of town.

The tolerance and proliferation of the early religious denominations emphasized and perpetuated the original premise on which Swansea was settled. The importance of religious tolerance resounded from the Town Meeting of 1712, when the residents voted to refuse to pay the 100-pound tax for a Puritan minister and voted, instead, to freely tax themselves 500 pounds and whatever else it would cost them to chose their own minister and to defend that stand in court. The only residents who disagreed were those in the west part of town, now Barrington. This, no doubt, contributed to the 1717 setting-off of Barrington as a separate town.

At the turn of the century, the public schools also became firmly established as a permanent and necessary institution of Swansea. In 1702 the selectmen were requested to procure a grammar schoolmaster, and after 1709 there was a permanent schoolmaster who received his stipend from the town. In 1743 and in 1755, there are accounts of discussions about establishing a permanent school building.

Important early families of Swansea were for the most part descendants of original land grantees or purchasers. The Martins, descending from John Martin, road surveyor, who settled in Swansea in 1665, developed a 100-acre farm and built one of the town's oldest surviving houses, the Martin House (1728). Martins were also present at Hortonville, although the primary landholders there were the Hales and Eddys. John Hale (then spelled Haile) (1677-1718) moved to the area in 1709 and established what was to become one of the more extensive farmsteads in Swansea. On the opposite side of Locust Street (part of an early Colonial road) was the Eddy farm, which later became known as the Baker Farm Complex (ca. 1750, 1835, MHC #s C-28, C-29, C-30). This is an excellent example of an 18th/19th century farmstead retaining much of its agricultural setting. The farm reflects the importance of agriculture as a mainstay of Swansea's economic development throughout its history.

Early families at what is now known as Swansea Village were the

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Eddys and the Hills. Zachariah Eddy (1639-1718), the family patriarch, moved to Swansea from Middleboro in the late 1600s. On his farm he set aside land for the family burial ground (MHC #D-818), in which the earliest marker was placed in 1687. Ebenezer Eddy (b. 1675) sold his farm to Jonathan Hill in 1720. Hill's Georgian homestead (ca. 1750, MHC #D-65) still stands on Main Street as a reminder of the early development there. At Barneyville, Jonathan Barney, whose grandfather settled in Swansea in 1690, built a family homestead on the east bank of the Palmer River (ca. 1750, MHC #A-3). Beyond the villages, scattered 18th-century farmsteads were also located on the primary roads to surrounding towns, namely Market Street and Old Warren Road (to Warren), Hortonville/Hornbine Road (to Rehoboth), and Sharps Lot Road (to Dighton).

Although farming was paramount to Swansea's economy, fishing also was important, and South Swansea was the focus for this industry. Throughout the 1700s, descendants of the first Samuel Gardner fished and farmed on Gardner's Neck. Peleg Gardner (1719-1789), who is best remembered for the many descendants from his sixteen children, turned solely to fishing. A pier was built at Cedar Cove on the Cole's River and the mainstay was menhaden, which in later years was salted and shipped abroad. The first recorded Gardner homestead was built in 1719; however, only later dwellings, such as 1035 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1768, MHC #F-141), survive as reminders of this important South Swansea family. On the opposite bank of the Cole's River, farmsteads dotted two routes with water access: Pearse Road at Touisset, and Cedar Avenue further inland to the north.

**Swansea: The Five Villages Evolve (1790-1865)**

At the onset of this period of development, Somerset was set off as a separate town in 1790, thus determining Swansea's present geographic size. At this time, the town was primarily a collection of scattered farmsteads, with no fewer than thirty burial grounds as evidence of their dispersed character. There were already pockets of concentrated settlement at Gardner's Neck where there was substantial fishing and farming activity, and at Barneyville, where Jonathan Barney started a shipyard in the late 1700s. During the next sixty years, the five distinct villages of Swansea evolved, each representing varying development patterns. Each was geographically isolated from the others and for this reason became somewhat self-reliant.

Barneyville's small boat building business on the Palmer River was taken over in 1802 by Mason Barney, son of Jonathan Barney, who had

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begun the yard. Under Mason Barney's rule, the shipyard became well known around the world, continuing operations until 1861. The yard produced gunboats, whalers, merchant ships, and barges. Ships were built of native timbers with planking from Attleboro and Seekonk. Barneyville developed into a small but flourishing village with its own hotel, store, post office, and several residences on Barneyville Road and Old Providence Road.

Luther's Corner evolved around main transportation routes--Pearse Road and Maple Avenue from the Cole's River to the interior, and Old Warren Road connecting Swansea to Warren. Although Lt. Hezekiah Luther (1676-1763) lived in Swansea from as early as 1704 (when he married Martha Gardner), it was his descendants who developed Luther's Corner as the town's first commercial center. Dominating the intersection are Luther's Tavern (ca. 1812, MHC #B-19), built by James Luther and operated as a tavern and stagecoach stop until 1857, and the Luther Store (1815, MHC #B-17), owned and operated by John Brown Luther (1794-1823) and later by Joseph Gardner Luther (1789-1859). The Luther family was also active in the development of surrounding houses that comprised the loosely organized village, also known as Swansea Center.

Hortonville on the winding upper stretch of the Cole's River was the location of 18th- and 19th-century saw and grist mills (none extant). In addition, the village supported one of the first large cotton mills in Massachusetts, operating with 200 to 300 spindles. The Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Co. was built in 1806 by Oliver Chace on Factory Lane, now known as Maiden Lane at the river edge. It burned in 1836 and was not rebuilt. During the 19th century, there were at least seven mills total at Hortonville, and with this scale of industry there evolved a self-reliant community similar to Barneyville. Construction of a district school (MHC #C-31) and the First Universalist Society's Liberty Hall at Hortonville by the late 1830s affirmed the village's growth by mid-century.

Swansea Village, at the head of the Lee's River and on Lewin Brook, had some small-scale industry and several stores. Israel Brayton (1792-1866) built a house and store at the corner of Elm and Main Streets and developed a substantial commercial business trading local products for imported items. The theme of liberal religious tolerance persevered in Swansea, and was manifested at Swansea Village with the construction of the Union Meeting Hall (ca. 1830, site of present Town Hall), which was used by several different denominations, and Christ Episcopal Church (1847, site of present church). A paper mill began operating on Lewin Brook at the foot of

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the present Ledge Road ca. 1840. Cottage industries also thrived in the village, including straw hat making, shoemaking, and cloth weaving from yarns spun in local cotton manufactories.

One of the most illustrious Swansea residents of this era was James E. Birch, who made his fortune by founding the California Stage Company on the West Coast in 1854. He married Julia A. B. Chace of Swansea and built the most elaborate house in Swansea Village, the Birch-Stevens Mansion (1855, MHC #D-61), to which he retired in 1856. Birch then turned his attentions to the promotion of transcontinental coach mail. However, in 1857 he was lost at sea while returning from a trip to California. His widow married his closest friend and business partner, Frank Shaw Stevens (1827-1898) in 1858. The town of Swansea benefited from the Birch-Stevens wealth in ensuing decades.

As the other four villages hosted a range of commercial, industrial, and institutional activities, South Swansea--consisting of Gardner's Neck and Touisett--remained a farming and fishing community. Menhadens were the common catch and were used for menhaden oil, which had become a substitute for whale oil at the end of the War of 1812, when whaling was interrupted. The Gardners still owned most of the land and businesses on the Neck, and new farmhouses were constructed on Pearse Road at Touisset and Cedar Avenue connecting to Swansea Center.

Townwide developments of the period include the 1807 establishment of school districts. Schoolhouses were built in each part of town, including the five villages. The school system was redistricted in 1838, and records of the one- and two-room schoolhouses built survive. In the same period, post offices were opened in each area, thus accentuating the self-reliant aspect of each village. The town's older religious societies built new structures, the independent church of Christ meetinghouse at Swansea Center (1833, MHC #10) and the Baptist Church near Barneyville in North Swansea (1848, MHC #7).

**Swansea: The Emerging Residential Suburb (1865-1939)**

In spite of limited industrial growth earlier in the 19th century, the rise of nearby Fall River and New Bedford as industrial cities of national reputation after the Civil War precluded further industrial development in Swansea. Of the three villages with active industry--Swansea Village, Hortonville, and Barneyville--only Barneyville maintained an industrial focus through the early 20th

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century. By contrast, the basis of Swansea's economy became increasingly agricultural. In 1865, the town's 191 farms produced large quantities of Indian corn, potatoes, and beef, which could be shipped east or west via the newly opened Fall River, Warren & Providence Railroad. By the end of the century and into the early 20th century, dairy farming accounted for nearly one quarter of Swansea's agricultural production, with market gardening and poultry also figuring prominently.

Regular transportation improvements fueled Swansea's residential growth from the late 1860s through the early decades of the 20th century. The Fall River-Providence railroad connection opened seaside South Swansea to summer home development, with construction in 1882 of South Swansea Station on Gardner's Neck, and later, Cole's Station at Touisset. Some of the seasonal residents, many from Fall River, acquired the area's older homes; others built new residences. The 1895 opening of the Dighton, Swansea, & Somerset Street Railway prompted the gradual suburbanization of Swansea, with modest single-family houses constructed across town, from the neighborhoods east of Swansea Village at the Somerset town line, to Barneyville/North Swansea in the west, and along Wilbur Avenue (Route 103) to the south.

The most dramatic changes to the landscape during this period occurred in South Swansea, where farmland was subdivided for the construction of large summer homes, and later, suburban developments. Summer communities cropped up at Gardner's Neck where various branches of the Gardner family began to sell land for subdivision, and at Touisset. Businessmen from Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford moved to Gardner's Neck, including Andrew Borden, William Almy, and George Manchester. David Anthony, another Fall River businessman, bought the southern tip of Gardner's Neck, built "Bay Point" (1895, MHC #F-149), and subdivided much of the remaining land for residential construction. The Colony, a late 19th-century single-family development at the foot of the Neck, is a result of land sold to Robert Wilcox and Eric Borden. The Wilbur Land Development Company surveyed and developed the area west of Gardner's Neck Road known as Ocean Grove. Development at Ocean Grove also included the Shady Isle Picnic Grove (1902, MHC #E-130), reached by a footbridge over the Cole's River. Amidst the rapid residential development was the continued farming of a large portion of land on the Neck by the sons of Leland Gardner, who engaged in large-scale market gardening. Fishing also continued as a viable business at Touisset. In the 1880s and 1890s, there was a market for fish fertilizer from menhagens produced by the William J.

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Brightman Fish Works. In addition, at least two oyster businesses operated on either side of the Cole's River.

In Barneyville, the Barney shipyard site was used for a jewelry factory, established in 1878 by former shipbuilder Daniel Child (1827-1914). The self-sufficiency of the village declined with the advent of trolley service there in 1901, as the trolley brought workers to the factory from other areas. Thus Barneyville slowly evolved into a predominantly residential community by the end of World War I. The demise of the streetcars in the early 1920s precipitated the closing and eventual demolition of the jewelry factory.

Hortonville continued to thrive with several small businesses operating into the early 20th century. Nathaniel Baker Horton (1820-1900), from whom Hortonville takes its name, became active in the community from the mid 1800s when he moved back to his family homestead on Hornbine Road in Rehoboth after working as a mason for twenty years in Fall River. Horton retained business interests in several Fall River cotton mills and banks. He contributed to community life in Rehoboth and later in the village of Swansea Factory, now known as Hortonville. There Horton built houses for his daughters and helped establish a branch post office in 1885. A meeting hall, post office, church, and school existed at Hortonville as late as ca. 1900. While farming was always a mainstay in the village, the last industry was a grist mill on the Cole's River that was dismantled and moved to Fall River at the turn of the century.

With the advent of the railroad in 1865 and the electric train in the 1890s, Luther's Corner continued to prosper as a commercial center and was for a time the town's unofficial civic core. Joseph Luther (1837-post 1924), proprietor of the Luther Store following his father's death in 1857, was an incorporator of the railroad. He also served as town clerk, tax collector, town treasurer, and justice of the peace. The Luther Store remained in business until 1903. In 1871 Seth Wilbur Eddy (1836-1916) opened a store (MHC #B-18) at Luther's Corner and continued in business until his death in 1916. His son, John Baker Eddy, assisted with the store and repaired clocks and watches; he also sold pianos for Briggs and Jewett Pianos. The same building housed another store opened in 1903 by the Cole Brothers. In 1889 Luther's Corner received its own post office; a district school was built in the early 1900s. A branch of the library was always stationed in one of the stores. Thus, the community appeared to have a thriving commercial nucleus. There still remained an avid interest in farming, and in the late

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1800s the Swansea Agricultural Library Association was established with a meeting place on Milford Road. This was not long lived and when it disbanded in 1902, the books were donated to the Swansea Free Public Library.

Swansea Village evolved into the civic center of Swansea in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1880, when Joseph Luther retired after fifteen years as town clerk, village resident Henry O. Wood became clerk, and the Village became the location of town business. Wood was also town treasurer and tax collector and used his home to conduct the town business until the Town Hall was constructed in 1891. Industry, never a major force in the village, remained confined to a site on Lewin Brook. A late 19th-century bleachery on the former paper mill site became Swansea Print Works, later an outlet for Fall River Print Cloth.

Construction of the architect-designed Town Hall (MHC #D-68) at the Village was funded by Frank Shaw Stevens (1827-1898) and family. A village resident, Stevens was active in community affairs, invested in mill businesses and banking in Fall River, and eventually served in the State Senate for two terms. Stevens's first wife, Julia Chace, had died in 1873 and Stevens remarried Elizabeth Case of Swansea Village's hotel family. The continued generosity of Elizabeth Case Stevens made possible the Frank S. Stevens School (1908, MHC #D-45) and the Joseph Case High School (now Jr. High, 1927, MHC #D-46). After her death, the Stevens Mansion was converted to a school for boys.

Two outgrowths of increased suburban development in Swansea in the early decades of the 20th century were the formation of new churches and construction of new schools. Swansea's first Catholic parishes--St. Francis at Barneyville and St. Dominic's at Swansea Center--were established in 1910-1911 by Fr. Bernard Percot of St. Anne's in Fall River to minister to the town's growing French and Portuguese populations. While the Barneyville church was short-lived, St. Dominic's Church (1912) is extant on the G. A. R. Highway (U.S. Route 6). Two churches were established at South Swansea, the South Swansea Union Church on Gardner's Neck (1916, MHC #F-138) and St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church at Ocean Grove (1922, MHC #E-127). A third Catholic parish, St. Louis de France, was formed by French-speaking residents in the developing eastern section of Swansea in 1928. Six public and parochial schools were built in the town after World War I; some of the public schools replaced earlier schoolhouses. In addition to the Stevens School and Case High School at Swansea Village, other schools constructed

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were the Gardner School (1924) on Gardner's Neck near Ocean Grove, St. Michael's School (1931, MHC #E-127) at Ocean Grove, the Joseph Luther School (1930-1931) near Luther's Corner, Mason Barney School (1936) at Barneyville, and the Ecole de St. Louis de France (1929) in the developing neighborhood east of Swansea Village.

Once the automobile became the primary mode of transportation, Swansea developed into a commuter suburb of Fall River, Taunton, and Providence. The villages in which there had been some commercialization and/or industrial activity generally reverted to strictly residential use. Shops, small businesses, and branch post offices closed. All civic activity was and has remained confined to Swansea Village, while commercial activity cropped up along Route 6, which became a U.S. Highway connecting Providence and Cape Cod in the 1920s.

**Recent Development (post 1939)**

New residential construction in Swansea subsided by the late 1930s and resumed in earnest in the 1950s. Many summer homes have been converted to year-round use. There has been substantial population growth since World War II, which has led to continued residential construction and commercial strip development along the major interregional transportation route, Route 6. Many rural landscapes through the town were sacrificed to the construction of Interstate I-95 in the 1960s. Most recent residential construction has been single-family subdivisions, although there are increasing pressures to build multiple-family and clustered housing units.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES**

In 1941, the Swansea Historical Society was formed to "procure, hold and maintain documents, records, data, historical landmarks and monuments and other evidence relating to the history of Swansea and its vicinity and the people thereof." The Luther Store at Luther's Corner was donated to the Historical Society and has served as a museum and meeting place since 1965 after extensive restoration.

In 1965 the Swansea Historical Commission was formed and worked closely with the Historical Society. A survey of historic buildings was conducted by the Historical Society in 1977-1978, and in 1978 two properties were listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Luther Store (160 Old Providence Road, MHC #B-17) and the Martin House (22 Stoney Hill Road, MHC #162).

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Publications, which enhance the public awareness of the historic resources and contribute to the success of preservation activities, include the town's 300th birthday publication Swansea Tercentenary: 1667-1967 and the Swansea Historical Society's The Swansea Stage Coach. Both publications have combined architecture and development patterns with geneology.

In 1985, the Swansea Historical Commission applied for and received a Survey and Planning Grant to complete a townwide historic resource inventory. This was completed and more than 150 properties were documented. This project led to the preparation of the Multiple Resource Area nomination, which was wholly funded by the Town of Swansea. The Commission is planning to develop a sign program to recognize the districts that will be designated by this nomination.

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## Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Swansea are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area offer the potential for indepth analysis of coastal settlement and subsistence during later periods and the effects of changing sea level rise on these aspects of study during earlier periods. Wetland and coastal nonability in Swansea also offer the potential for an analysis of varied site types and functions, possibly containing complete examples of particular settlement and subsistence systems during different periods of prehistory. In close proximity to the mouth of the Taunton River, prehistoric sites in Swansea may be important in understanding native settlement in that drainage area.

Historical archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural and economic patterns that characterized a First Period settlement area in southeastern Massachusetts. Archaeological survivals can help document the location and nature of the town's early settlement for which no examples and few locations survive. Historic period survivals can also expand on the data base of individuals, institutions and industries responsible for the development of the towns five villages. Furthermore, the differences between historic period remains can also help document Swansea's role in King Philip's War which basically started in Swansea where the first bloodshed occurred. Every structure in the town was apparently burned as a result of the war. Archaeological survivals also offer the potential for a study of early bridge technology at the site of Myles Bridge on the Palmer River. Seventeenth through 19th century survivals of fisheries operations are also important in documenting components of that industry including fish oil operations piers, wharves and other shore-based facilities.

In general, Swansea's residential/resort character with limited commercial activity should increase the potential for both prehistoric and historic survivals in the town. These factors combined with the range of potential resources for both periods indicate archaeology as an important component of this community.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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1830 "Swansea", William Peck of Dighton, Notes on map Massachusetts  
State House Library (zeroxed copy in Swansea Public Library)

1849 "Map of the Town of Swansey, Bristol County, Mass."  
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(possibly Walling) - Swansea Public Library

1871 Atlas of Bristol County, Mass. F. W. Beers & Co. New York, N.Y.  
Notes names of heads of households - pg. 30-31 - Swansea Public Library

1895 New Topographical Atlas, Everts and Richards, Philadelphia, PA  
Notes structures in outline of massing/footprint and color codes materials  
Swansea Public Library

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1909 Blue Print Layout of Gardner's Neck Road - The Colony  
Bristol County Court House - Fall River, MA

USGS Maps For Town of Swansea:

Scale 1:25 000

East Providence, R.I.- MA, 1971/79

Fall River, MA, R. I., 1967/79

Somerset, MA - Bristol, Co. 1985

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Previously Listed on the National Register:

Luther Store, 160 Old Warren Road, 5/22/1978;

Martin House and Farm, 22 Stoney Road, 10/2/1978.



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The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the  
Swansea, Mass. MRA nomination:

Swansea, Mass. MRA

Photographer: Kay Flynn/Preservation Plus, Inc.

Location of negative: Swansea Public Library

See individual and district photographs for photo-specific information.

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Property Index  
Swansea Multiple Resource Area  
Swansea, Massachusetts

\*\*See separate list for property owners.

\*\*See District Data Sheets and individual building forms for date of construction, style, and resource.

Map #	MHC# / Overview #	Historic Name	Address	Status	District/Individual
Sheet 35	7 833	First Baptist Church cemetery	Baptist Street	C C	Individual
20/1	A1	Mason Barney House shed garage	1 Barneyville Road	C NC NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/2A	---	---	5 Barneyville Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/3	A2	Daggett Place converted barn shed well house	22-24 Barneyville Road	C NC NC NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/4B	---	---	47 Barneyville Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/5C	---	---	51 Barneyville Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/6D	---	---	55 Barneyville Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/7	A160	John Barney Farm barn	60 Barneyville Road	C C	Barneyville H. D.
20/8	A161	--- garage	77 Barneyville Road	C NC	Barneyville H. D.

Sheet 40	F149	David Anthony House garage stone post	98 Bay Point Avenue	C C C	Individual
Sheet 40	F150	Harold Anthony House garage	132 Bay Point Avenue	C C	Individual
Sheet 56	112	"Bend of the Lane" barn/garage stone wall	181 Cedar Avenue	C C C	Individual
Sheet 57	113	Deacon Buffington House granite wall	262 Cedar Avenue	C C	Individual
72/43	D82	--- garage	90 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/44	D83	---	102 Elm Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/45	D84	Mary Althom House stable/garage	107 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/46	D85	--- garage	108 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/47	D86	Mary Slade House garage	117 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/48	D87	R. C. Gray House barn	118 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/49	---	---	123 Elm Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/50	D88	--- garage	127 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/51E	---	--- garage	137 Elm Street	NC NC	Swansea Village H. D.

72/52	D89	Kellogg House carriage hse/barn	147 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/53	D90	Baldwin House carriage hse/barn	155 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/54	D90	---	157 Elm Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/1	D91	Nottingham House garage	160 Elm Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/42	D92	Slade House garage barn	167 Elm Street	C C C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/2	D45	Frank Stevens School	1 Gardner's Neck Road	C	Swansea Village H. D.
Sheet 46	F138	South Swansea Union Ch. parish house	Gardner's Neck Road	C NC	Individual
Sheet 46	F141	Samuel Gardner House	1035 Gardner's Neck Rd.	C	Individual
Sheet 46	F142	Francis Gardner House garage/workshop	1129 Gardner's Neck Rd.	C NC	Individual
Sheet 43	F143	Joseph Gardner House garage/barn	1205 Gardner's Neck Rd.	C C	Individual
40/1	F152	--- stone wall	1536 Gardners's Neck Rd	C NC	The Colony H. D.
40/2A	---	---	1550 Gardner's Neck Rd.	NC	The Colony H. D.
40/3B	F164	---	1562 Gardner's Neck Rd.	NC	The Colony H. D.
Sheet 76	10	Church of Christ/First Christian Cong. Church	G. A. R. Highway	C	Individual



Sheet 16	42	Hooper House garage barn stone wall picket fence well house	306 Hortonville Road	C C C C C NC	Individual
25/1G	C41	B. Marvel House garage stone wall	990 Hortonville Rd.	NC NC C	Hortonville H. D.
25/2	C40	Robt. Sherman House stone wall	1015 Hortonville Rd.	C C	Hortonville H. D.
64/3 64/4	D72	Swan Finishing Co. office storage building	11 Ledge Road	C C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
64/5	D818	Eddy Burial Ground bronze tablet	Ledge Road	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/6	D73	---	19 Ledge Road	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/7A	---	---	29 Ledge Road	NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/8C	---	---	88 Ledge Road	NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/9	D75	Brown Rebekah Lodge	98 Ledge Road	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/10	D74	Martin House garage	108 Ledge Road	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
24/4	C38	Mason Horton House garage barn	4 Locust Street	C NC C	Hortonville H. D.
28/5	C37	Marvel House	5 Locust Street	C	Hortonville H. D.

25/6	C36	Benj. Martin House garage	24 Locust Street	C NC	Hortonville H. D.
24/16A	---	---	28 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/7	C35	---	31-33 Locust Street	C	Hortonville H. D.
28/8	C34	---	39 Locust Street	C	Hortonville H. D.
28/9	C33	Horton House barn outhouse	45 Locust Street	C C C	Hortonville H. D.
28/10	---	--- garage	50 Locust Street	C C	Hortonville H. D.
24/11H	---	---	55 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/12I	C32	Dexter Nicholas House	67 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/13	C31	Hortonville School	77 Locust Street	C	Hortonville H. D.
28/14J	---	---	89 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/15K	---	--- garage	139 Locust Street	NC NC	Hortonville H. D.
24/17D	---	---	148 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/27L	---	---	161 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/28M	---	---	161A Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
24/18E	---	--- barn	162 Locust Street	NC C	Hortonville H. D.
24/19F	---	---	202 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.

Baker Farm Complex:

28/20	C30	Eddy House slaughterhouse stable secondary farmhouse and garage	235 Locust Street	C NC C 2NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/21-0	C29	Eddy House garage	241 Locust Street	NC C	Hortonville H. D.
28/22	C28	Myron Baker Estate	261 Locust Street	C	Hortonville H. D.
28/23B	---	---	359 Locust Street	NC	Hortonville H. D.
28/24	C27	Melatihah Martin Hse. garage	397 Locust Street	C NC	Hortonville H. D.
24/25	C26	William J. Hale House barn	410 Locust Street	C NC	Hortonville H. D.
24/26	C25	Daniel Hale House barn	416 Locust Street	C C	Hortonville H. D.
	C809	cemetery		C	
24/3	C39	Chace House	11 Maiden Lane	C	Hortonville H. D.
24/29	---	Site of Chace Mill	Maiden Lane	C	Hortonville H. D.
72/11	D65	Hill House	1 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/12	D64	--- garage	9 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/13	D63	James Mason House garage	15 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/14	D62	John Mason House garage	21 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.

72/15	D61	Stevens Mansion office w/ bird house carriage house bowling lanes 3 dorms for school gymnasium granite bollard/iron fence (Main St.) fieldstone wall (Elm Street)	24 Main Street	C C C C 3C NC C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/16	D60	Northam House	27 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/23	D68	Christ Church parish office/day school	Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/55	D814	Christ Church Cemetery	Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/17	D157	Village Post Office	42 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/18	D59	Thomas Chase House garage	52 Main Street	C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/19	D58	Winslow House	59 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/24	D66	Frank S. Stevens Public Library	Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/20	D57	---	64 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/21	D56	J. L. Wellington House garage	72 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/22	D55	Henry Wood House garage	80 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
72/25	D67	Town Hall	Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/56	D815	Old Burial Ground	Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.



73/26	D54	Stevens Cottage #1	86 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/27	D53	Stevens Cottage #2	92 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/29	D52	Hull House garage	93 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/28	D51	Stevens Cottage #3	96 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/57	---	---	98 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/30F	---	garage	102 Main Street	NC NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/31	D50	Dr. John Hilton House garage	109 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/32	---	garage	110 Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/33	D49	Daniel Woods House barn stone wall	125 Main Street	C C C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/58B	---	V. F. W. Hall	140 Main Street	NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/34	D48	---	142 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/35	---	---	154 Main Street	C	Swansea Village H. D.
73/59D	---	Swansea Fire House	Main Street	NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/36	D46	Joseph Case High Sch. shop	Main Street	C NC	Swansea Village H. D.
73/37G	---	---	166 Main Street	NC	Swansea Village H. D.

73/38	D47	M. Buffington House shed and chicken coop	222 Main Street	C 2C	Swansea Village H. D.
61/2	B21	Brown-Luther Hse. stone wall stone post	2 Maple Avenue	C C C	Luther's Corner H. D.
Sheet 12	8	Luther House stone wall	177 Market Street	C C	Individual
Sheet 12	9	Short's Tavern stone wall	282 Market Street	C C	Individual
Sheet 26	99	Walkden Farm barn	495 Marvel Street	C C	Individual
Sheet 17	A163	William P. Mason House garage storage shed	5 Mason Street	C C C	Individual
40/4	F147	A. T. Marvel Hse. garage	15 Mattapoissett Avenue	C NC	The Colony H. D.
40/5	F148	A. P. Davol House	28 Mattapoissett Avenue	C	The Colony H. D.
40/6	F165	H. M. Prescot Hse. garage	35 Mattapoissett Avenue	C C	The Colony H. D.
40/7	---	---	45 Mattapoissett Avenue	C	The Colony H. D.
Sheet 74	110	P. Gardner House barn wood fence	90 Milford Road	C C C	Individual
Sheet 21	A6	Norton House garage	61 Old Providence Road	C NC	Individual

20/10	A3	Barney House garage	166 Old Providence Road	C NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/17E	---	[golf course]	Old Providence Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/11	A162	Norton-Barney Hse. garage/carriage house barn	227 Old Providence Road	C C C	Barneyville H. D.
20/9	---	Old Prov. Rd. Bridge	Old Providence Road	C	Barneyville H. D.
20/12I	A4	Barney Shipyard Site Marker	Old Providence Road/ Barneyville Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/13	A5	Myles Garrison House Site Marker	Old Providence Road	C	Barneyville H. D.
20/18H	---	---	328 Old Providence Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/14	---	garage	331 Old Providence Road	C C	Barneyville H. D.
20/15F	---	---	363 Old Providence Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
20/16G	---	---	367 Old Providence Road	NC	Barneyville H. D.
Sheet 76	B22	William Luther House garage stone wall	79 Old Warren Road	C C C	Individual
76/1	B19	Jas. Luther Tavern modern garage	159 Old Warren Road	C NC	Luther's Corner H. D.
61/4	B17	Luther Store	160 Old Warren Road	C	Luther's Corner H. D.
61/3	B18	Eddy Hse. and Store tool shed stone wall	174 Old Warren Road	C NC C	Luther's Corner H. D.

Sheet 3	B20	Benjamin Cole House barn garage	412 Old Warren Road	C C NC	Individual
Sheet 51	116	Smuggler's House milk house garage/carriage house	361 Pearse Road	C C C	Individual
Sheet 47	120	John Brown IV House garage	703 Pearse Road	C NC	Individual
Sheet 43	F137	J. V. Johnson House garage	36 Riverview Avenue	C NC	Individual
Sheet 30	97	Simcock House barn milk house well house stone wall	1074 Sharps Lot Road	C C NC C C	Individual
Sheet 70	93	Bark Street School	68 Stevens Road	C	Individual
72/39H	D70	Hillside Stock Farm barn stone wall	745 Stevens Road	NC C C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/40	D71	Case Hall shed garage stone wall	757 Stevens Road	C C NC C	Swansea Village H. D.
72/41	D69	Case Hotel wooden fence	789 Stevens Road	C C	Swansea Village H. D.



Key:

- Map #            =   individual properties: assessor's sheet number  
                       districts: assessor's sheet number/property number indicated on map of district  
                               letter at end of a property number denotes noncontributing property
- MHC #/  
   Overview #   =   MHC inventory number keyed to overview map
- C               =   contributing resource  
 NC             =   noncontributing resource

Vacant/undeveloped lots within district boundaries:

## Barneyville Historic District

Barneyville Road (Sheet 20): lots 9A, 43  
 Old Providence Road (Sheet 20): lots 29, 32, 34, 36, 37, 41

## The Colony Historic District

Mattapoissett Avenue (Sheet 40): lots 38, 41

## Hortonville Historic District

Locust Street, north side (Sheet 28): lots 2A-1, 2B, 6, 6A, 14  
 Locust Street, south side (Sheet 24): 6, 8A, 10, 11, 12B  
 Maiden Lane (Sheet 25): lots 4, 4A

## Swansea Village Historic District

Ledge Road (Sheet 73): lot 1  
 Main Street (Sheet 73): lot 27  
 Main Street (Sheet 72): lots 6A, 9A, 39

MRA Total Resources:

	contributing	noncontributing
Buildings	155	70
Sites	6	1
Structures	20	4
Objects	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	184	77

## FORM B - BUILDING

59  
JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

F	149
---	-----

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town SWANSEA - Swansea, Mass. MRA

Address 98 Bay Point Avenue

Historic Name David M. Anthony House

"Bay Point"

Use: Present residence

Original Summer residence, farm

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1895

Source Town Report/Visual Analysis

Style Queen Anne

Architect William Beattie

Exterior Wall Fabric Wood shingles

Outbuildings 2-stall detached garage

Major Alterations (with dates) Enclosed  
portion of porch (date unknown)

Condition Basic original fabric in excellent  
condition

Moved No Date ---

Acreage Over one acre - 8.57 acres

Setting Graciously sited on relatively large  
property on Mt. Hope Bay. Well established  
trees accentuate the property.

UTM REFERENCE 19 316110 4619770

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, Mass.-R.I. 1967-79

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Kay Flynn/L. Fayan, Jr. March 1978

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date January 1986

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

An example of Swansea's late 19th-century resort construction with a house in the Queen Anne style, the property at 98 Bay Point Ave. retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

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

A two-story and three-story asymmetrical Queen Anne house in the free classic tradition. The identifying features are the hipped roof with two crossed gables, corner towers, one-story wrap porch (on water side) and curved gable end with porte-cochere. The dynamics in the wall surface is due to the roof forms, towers, overhangs and porches. Variety is also achieved through the juxtaposition of wood shingles and stone in the base of the corner tower and the porte-cochere facing the road to the east.

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

In 1883, David M. Anthony, a wealthy Fall River businessman, was one of the founders of the Swift Meat Packing Company. The house he built at Bay Point was one of the earliest summer estates on Gardners Neck. The house is typical Victorian. Anthony and other wealthy Fall River businessmen changed Gardners Neck from an agricultural to a residential area.

In 1942, the Anthony heirs sold 11.83 acres of land and Bay Point to Margaret M. Foley of Somerset. As of 1978, Mrs. Foley's family still used the property as a summer residence. Approximately three acres of the original property were sold at an unknown date.

William Beattie may have been the granite dealer of the same name listed in the 1895 Fall River directory. That directory also lists the firm of David Beattie and Arthur Wilcox, masons, contractors, and builders.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Real Estate records, Swansea Town Report -- 1895, 1896, 1897

Stone monument in front of property dated 1896

Fall River directory, 1895.

58  
JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

F

150

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 132 Bay Point Avenue

Historic Name Harold H. Anthony House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1922

Source Assessor's records

Style Georgian Revival

Architect R. Clipston Sturgis

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings 2-car brick garage

Major Alterations (with dates) south porch  
enclosed (1930)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 1.7 acres

Setting one of the larger properties in  
the area overlooking Mt. Hope Bay;  
simple landscaping, circular driveway

Recorded by R. A. Waring/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date April 1978/January 1986/October 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 315970 4619820

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Harold Anthony House, 132 Bay Point Avenue, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The house meets Criterion A for its association with the suburbanization of Gardner's Neck in South Swansea in the early decades of the 20th century, and Criterion C as a prominent architect-designed house of brick, an unusual building material in residential construction in Swansea.

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

This elegant two-story brick house in the Georgian Revival style was designed by Boston architect R. Clipston Sturgis in 1922. The gabled structure consists of a rectangular main block with two four-bay wings extending south toward Mt. Hope Bay. The main entry is marked by a full-height portico with Doric columns flanked by gabled wall dormers. On the south elevation, a center-entry porch facing the bay is distinguished by exposed rafters and paired columns; the porch was enclosed with multi-pane sash ca. 1930. All window sash on the brick elevations are contained in brick segmental-arch or rectangular surrounds.

As a brick house, 132 Bay Point Avenue is unusual in Swansea, where both year-round and summer homes are generally clad in wood.

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

This house was built on land at the end of Gardner's Neck and bought by Harold Anthony's father, David M. Anthony, in 1883 (see Form F149). The land had been in the Gardner family from 1694 to 1867, and had been used for farming. Mr. David Anthony continued to operate a farm on the property until 1895, when he built a summer residence facing Mt. Hope Bay. He sold some of his land along Lee's River and the Bay to Fall River families who followed his example and built summer homes. In 1922, his son, Harold, built this brick residence as a permanent home. The younger Anthony was at the forefront of the movement to make Swansea a suburban, rather than simply a summer resort, town. The next fifty years brought winterization of summer homes throughout Gardner's Neck.

R. Clipston Sturgis (b. 1860) of Boston had a varied career that focused on residential and institutional design. With William Chapman and Robert D. Andrews, Sturgis was involved in the addition of white marble wings to the Massachusetts State House in 1914-1917. He began his architectural career in the office of John H. Sturgis, and in 1888 succeeded to partnership with William R. Cabot. Among his other commissions are the Arlington (Mass.) Town Hall, Whitinsville (Mass.) Library (1925), and a house in Lancaster, Mass.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's records, Swansea, Mass. (1922).  
Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Dept., Boston architects file.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

93

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address Stevens Road at Bark StreetHistoric Name Bark Street SchoolUse: Present elementary schoolOriginal primary school

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1905Source School Committee Report for 1905Style Colonial RevivalArchitect Louis G. Destremps & SonExterior Wall Fabric shingleOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) ca. 1930 -- shingled rear additionCondition excellentMoved -- Date --less than one acre of totalAcreage 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre lotSetting open lot with playgrounds inrear -- building situated close to street

- Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo.
- Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).

Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 320080 4624000USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979SCALE 1:25000Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. BroomerOrganization Swansea Historical CommissionDate May 1986/October 1989

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Bark Street School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. It meets Criterion C on the local level as a well-preserved example of a Colonial Revival schoolhouse with a sympathetic addition at the rear.

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

Bark Street School is the only frame Colonial Revival school in Swansea, a town dominated by brick school buildings. The original two-room, center-hall schoolhouse of 1905 has a compatible rear addition of two classrooms designed ca. 1930. One story with a cobblestone foundation, continuous shingled walls, and a hipped roof, the school is capped with a square cupola with louvered openings and a pyramidal roof. The influence of the Prairie style is suggested by the low horizontal lines, wide eave overhang, and bands of windows on the side elevations. All windows contain 6/6 double-hung sash. The center entry with round-arched transom is shielded by a shed-roof overhang on oversized triangular knee braces. The rear addition, which incorporates design elements of the original building, differs from the original only in its concrete foundation.

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

The oldest continuously used school building in Swansea, Bark Street School was built during a period of rapid suburbanization in the southeastern section of town in the early 20th century. The first school on the site (present on an 1895 map) was sold for \$40.00, moved around the corner of Stevens Road to Bark Street, and converted for use as a residence. The School Department's Building Committee abandoned the idea of replacing the earlier school with another one-room schoolhouse, settling instead on a two-classroom design in anticipation of future development in the surrounding neighborhood. The school was designed by Louis G. Destremps & Son and built by Edgar W. Hardy for \$2880.00.

Bark Street School was one of ten schoolhouses in Swansea at the time of its construction. Intended as a primary school for a maximum of 80 pupils, Bark Street School proved to be of inadequate size by the 1920s, when roughly 100 primary and grammar school students occupied the building. The large rear addition, similar in design, scale, and materials to the 1905 building, was constructed ca. 1930.

- Verbal Boundary Justification: The school building occupies only a fraction of the 6.25-acre lot. The nomination extends only to the open area immediately surrounding the school, comprising less than one acre. The balance of the property consists of playfields developed later in the 20th century, and woodlot.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Helen Pierce interview, Swansea, 2/88.  
Bristol County atlas (Everts & Richards), 1895.  
Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Swansea. 1904 and 1905.

74M 0 0 1830

JAN 02 1990

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

A

(See Data Sheet)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Swansea, Mass. MRA  
Town SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any)

Barneyville Historic District

Present Use residential

General Date or Period

ca. 1750-1939

General Condition good

Acreage approximately 27 acres

Recorded by Preservation Plus/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/October 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white) Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see attached map)

A 19 310720 4626810  
B 19 310710 4626660  
C 19 310030 4626700  
D 19 309870 4626540

E 19 309770 4626650  
F 19 310010 4626890  
G 19 310120 4626840

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979  
SCALE 1:24000



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Barneyville Historic District contains the greatest concentration of buildings associated with growth of the village from the mid-18th century through the early 20th century. A location of early agricultural settlement oriented toward the Palmer (Warren) River, Barneyville became a self-sufficient village with the flourishing of its successive shipbuilding and jewelry-making industries in the 19th century. Now entirely residential, the district maintains its rural character. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, the Barneyville Historic District meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Located in the northwestern section of Swansea, Barneyville Historic District is a rural, residential area comprising approximately 27 acres. Old Providence Road connects village settlement on the east and west sides of the Palmer River, also known historically as the Warren River. The district consists of a nucleated settlement near the intersection of Barneyville and Old Providence Roads giving way to more scattered settlement east of the river.

The area contains 13 contributing resources and 16 noncontributing resources. Two historically significant sites, those of the Jonathan Barney-Mason Barney Shipyard and the Myles Garrison House, are marked by stone monuments. Noncontributing structures are primarily modest contemporary houses and secondary structures such as garages. Of the seven contributing wood-frame residences, two were built in the Georgian style, one in the Federal, two in the Greek Revival, and two in the Colonial Revival. The district includes typical examples of the 2½-story house of the prominent 18th-century farmer, a double house

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Barneyville was first settled in the 17th century, when the Rev. John Myles, pastor of the First Baptist Church and one of Swansea's first settlers, built his garrisoned home near the present intersection of Barneyville Road and Old Providence Road after 1663. A memorial tablet (1912, MHC #A5) was erected near the site of the garrison, which burned in 1909. Connecting colonial development to the east in Swansea and to the west in what is now Barrington, Rhode Island was Myles (also known as Miles) Bridge over the Palmer River, one of the earliest bridges erected in this section of Bristol County. The first bridge may have dated to the early 18th century, for the Provincial Statutes of 1736-1737 refer to a Miles Bridge on a county road which had decayed. The towns of Swansea and Barrington were ordered to build a cart bridge at the location of the early bridge. Swansea raised the funds to maintain the bridge with a lottery in 1749. Replaced several times, including with an iron bridge in 1878, the present concrete abutment bridge was constructed in 1938 (Photo #3).

The village's earliest identity as Barneyville and its association with the shipbuilding industry in Swansea began in the late 18th century, when the Barney Shipyard was begun by Jonathan Barney. Barney, whose grandfather had moved to the Swansea area from Salem in 1690, built the family homestead east of the river ca. 1750 (166 Old Providence Road, MHC #A3, Photo #1). Jonathan Barney also built the double house at 22-24 Barneyville Road (1771-1774, MHC #A2) across the river, on speculation that the success of his shipyard would translate into growth in the surrounding area. The house is the earliest known example of the double-

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Hurd, Duane H. History of Bristol County, MA. Philadelphia, 1883.  
Hutt, Frank Walcott. A History of Bristol County, MA. NY: Lewis Hist. Publ. Co., 1924.  
Pierce, Helen, ed. Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967. Swansea, MA, 1967.  
Wright, O. O. History of Swansea 1667-1917. Swansea, MA, 1917.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Swansea, Mass. MRA SWANSEA	Form No:  see DDS
Property Name: Barneyville H.D.	

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

built for workers, and a typical 19th-century farmhouse.

The oldest dwelling in Barneyville is the Barney House at 166 Old Providence Road (ca. 1750, MHC #A3, Photo #1). Located at the eastern edge of the district but oriented west toward the river (i.e., perpendicular to the road), the Barney House is one of the more architecturally ambitious houses in the district. Of the characteristic 2 1/2-story, side-gable, double-pile form with double interior chimneys, the clapboarded Georgian structure has a five-bay facade distinguished by corner quoins and long first floor windows containing 9/9 sash. Elements believed to date to the Federal period include a hood and engaged column surround at the center entry. Also during the Federal period, a two-story gabled rear ell of brick was constructed. This was an unusual building material in Swansea residential construction and particularly at Barneyville, where wood was in constant supply at the shipyard on the river.

Jonathan Barney, founder of the shipyard in the village, built the double house now known as the Daggett Place at 22-24 Barneyville Road (1771-1774, MHC #A2). This 1 1/2-story house with steeply pitched gable roof is unique in the district for its six-bay facade and paired center doors. Each unit has a central chimney. Modestly detailed with cornerboards and 12/12 sash, the house displays an affinity with the Georgian style in its door surrounds with Doric pilasters and five-light transoms.

A second large dwelling is the Mason Barney House at 1 Barneyville Road (1802-1812, MHC #A1, Photo #4). Prominently sited at the corner of Barneyville Road and Old Providence Road, the house is oriented toward the easterly approach from the river. The 2 1/2-story, Federal style house with five-bay center-entry facade and double interior chimneys was remodeled ca. 1900. Colonial Revival details added at that time include wide corner pilasters bearing oversized Corinthian capitals, a central gabled wall dormer containing a tripartite window, and flanking gabled dormers with fluted pilasters, keyed surrounds, and tracery in the upper sash. A brick rear ell with a columned porch was also added to the house at that time.

The Norton-Barney House at 227 Old Providence Road (ca. 1840, MHC #A162) on the east bank of the river is a typical 2 1/2-story Greek Revival structure with pedimented end gable, three-bay facade, and side-hall plan. The single-story flat-roofed entrance porch is richly detailed with fluted Doric columns. The door surround incorporates a wide frieze, dentil cornice, pilasters with recessed Greek key motifs, and three-quarter sidelights. All windows contain 6/6 sash. A one-story west wing with picture window was probably added in the 1950s. Another Greek Revival house, more modest in scale and located at the closely settled western edge of the district, is 77 Barneyville Road (ca. 1821, MHC #A161). This gabled, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay dwelling has a wide frieze, cornerboards, and 6/6 sash. The end-bay entry is flanked by narrow (possibly later) sidelights and surmounted by a pitched door hood.

A Barney descendant built the farmhouse at 60 Barneyville Road (MHC #A160) ca. 1903. A 1 1/2-story, gable-front and wing dwelling, this vernacular Colonial Revival house displays plain window and door surrounds and bracketed porch posts. While situated on a 16-acre parcel extending from Barneyville Road east to the river, the house and contributing barn and well are located on approximately two acres closest to the road; this acreage comprises the extent of the property within the nominated district. Another 1 1/2-story gable-front house in the Colonial Revival style is 331 Old Providence Road (ca. 1920, not surveyed). Located on the west bank of the river near the bridge, this house is currently abandoned.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Swansea, Mass. MRA SWANSEA	Form No: see DDS
Property Name: Barneyville H.D.	

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

## Architectural Significance (continued)

Miscellaneous contributing resources include the concrete Old Providence Road bridge over the river (1938, not surveyed), the most recent in a series of bridges at this location. The Myles Garrison House Site Marker (1912, MHC #A5) is a stone monument erected on the site of the house belonging to the earliest known settler of Barneyville, the Rev. John Myles, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Swansea.

Located in two pockets among the historic homes at the western end of the Barneyville district are seven contemporary vernacular houses (5, 47, 51, and 55 Barneyville Road; 328, 363 and 367 Old Providence Road). Placement of these late 1940s or 1950s houses suggests that sections of larger lots with street frontage were sold for development at that time. The houses are generally modest one-story, gable-end structures with projecting enclosed entries. The house type is typical of post-World War II residential construction in Swansea.

## Historical Significance (continued)

chimney plan in Swansea. Barney's business was largely confined to small boats for local farmers and fishermen. It was not until 1802, when Jonathan Barney relocated to New York and his son Mason (1782-1869) took over the business, that the shipyard developed rapidly.

Mason Barney's shipyard occupied more than five acres of land on the east side of the river. His first ship was launched in 1803, and by the time the last vessel was launched in 1859, 137 ships had been built in the yard under Mason Barney's supervision. These vessels included gunboats built for the Federal government during the Mexican War (1846-1848), whalers, merchant ships for the China trade, barges for use on the Blackstone Canal, and slave ships. Barney ships were built of timber from surrounding forests, particularly in neighboring Rehoboth and Dighton. Trees were hauled to the shipyard where they were hewn to the proper shape. Lack of a saw mill in Swansea necessitated that planking be brought in from Attleboro and Seekonk. [Swansea Tercent., 23-25] The ships were issued from the shipyard near Myles Bridge and sent downstream to Warren, Rhode Island for fitting. These ships were known as "Bungtown" ships, a name of unknown origin that is still associated with Barneyville today. By 1850 the yard employed more than 175 workers, at a time when the town's population numbered only 280 families.

A self-contained village had developed around Barney's shipbuilding enterprise, one in which he served as landlord, chief employer, storekeeper, postmaster, and banker. At one time Barney minted coins known as "Bungtown Coppers." Extant evidence of his financial success is his house, built by his employees at 1 Barneyville Road (MHC #A1) between 1802 and 1812. This home and the Barney family homestead on the east side of the river are the largest houses in the village. The Barney shipyard closed abruptly in 1861, a direct result of the 1858 financial panic and growing demand for iron, rather than wooden, ships. A site marker at the southeast corner of Old Providence and Barneyville Roads (1983, MHC #A4) documents the importance of the shipyard to the community.

Jewelry manufacturing replaced shipbuilding as Barneyville's mainstay in the third quarter of the 19th century. Daniel R. Child, a carpenter in the Barney shipyard, went to Providence to learn the jewelry business. Returning to Barneyville, Child opened a jewelry factory, located first on the shipyard lot and later on Old Providence Road west of Mason Barney's house. The two-story wood-frame factory (no longer

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: _____	Form No: _____
Swansea, Mass. MRA SWANSEA	see DDS
Property Name: Barneyville H.D.	

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

Historical Significance (continued)

extant) produced collar buttons and cuff links, which reportedly were shipped to all parts of the country. Child had married Elizabeth Mason Barney, granddaughter of Mason Barney, in 1854, and the couple eventually resided at the Mason Barney home. Child was politically active, serving eight years as a town selectman and one term as a Representative to the Massachusetts Legislature.

D. R. Child & Co. employed men and women from Swansea and adjoining towns. Barneyville's accessibility via the Providence & Fall River Street Railway accounted for a steady supply of employees. In 1894, the business was sold to J. L. Fenimore and later transferred to Lorenzo P. Sturtevant. Sturtevant, then owner of the Mason Barney House, was responsible for the ca. 1900 remodeling of the building. Sturtevant planted elaborate gardens south of the house which are no longer extant. After more transfers, the jewelry manufacturing business was purchased in 1911 by B. E. Norton and J. A. Wheeler and the name changed to the North Swansea Manufacturing Company. The factory employed 50 to 60 people in the manufacture of collar buttons, sleeve links, tie clasps, and stick pins. Business continued to flourish until the early 1920s when the street railroad, which brought employees to the factory, went out of business. The factory was demolished at an unknown date.

In addition to the industries that supported Barneyville throughout its history, farming and other agriculture-related pursuits were practiced by Barney descendants on their large land-holdings flanking the river in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Algernon H. Barney, who resided at the 1200-acre family homestead at 166 Old Providence Road in the 1890s, sold hay and produce to the City of Providence. He held the garbage contract for the cities of Providence and later Pawtucket, Newport, Fall River, and New Bedford. The refuse provided food for the thousands of hogs that Barney raised over the years. In 1903, John Barney built a farmhouse on the opposite side of the river at 60 Barneyville Road. Some portion of John Barney's 16-acre property is believed to have been cultivated, though the products of the farm have not yet been determined.

Although most of Barneyville's extant buildings served or complemented residential uses, the Greek Revival building at 77 Barneyville Road (MHC #A161) was used as a chapel in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Algernon Barney, who obtained the building from the Free Will Baptist Church, deeded the structure to the Catholic church ca. 1903 for the benefit of the Portuguese immigrants who worked on his farm. This may be the same building where the mission church of St. Francis was established in 1910-1911 by a priest from the Fall River parish of St. Anne's. The building reverted to residential use at an undetermined date. Only one commercial building known to have been associated with Barneyville survives, a vernacular Gothic Revival structure located roughly one-quarter mile east of the historic district at 5 Mason Street. This building, which served various uses as a hotel, store, and post office, has been excluded from the historic district due to the amount of contemporary infill construction between Mason Street and the Barney homestead (166 Old Providence Road) at the eastern edge of the district.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea, Mass. MRA

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Barneyville H.D.

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

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Barneyville Historic District comprises the greatest concentration of intact resources historically associated with the development of the village at Barneyville from ca. 1750 to ca. 1939. The district also includes a portion of the Palmer (Warren) River where it is spanned by a bridge on Old Providence Road, as well as portions of marshland on the river banks and open space on the south side of Old Providence Road, now used as a golf course. Boundaries incorporate a line of convenience drawn approximately 200 feet from the road on large properties within the district. The district is distinguished from areas of concentrated contemporary development and/or lesser architectural integrity to the east, southeast, and northwest.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

JAN 0 2 1990

112

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 181 Cedar Avenue

Historic Name "Bend of the Lane"

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1740

Source Luther Family in America (1976)

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (late 19th cent.)

Major Alterations (with dates) rear ell

(ca. 1850), south wing (late 1920s)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 4 acres

Setting Located in the bend of Cedar

Avenue, a secondary route between

Swansea Center and Touisset. Rural

residential area.

Recorded by Doodson & Travers/K. Flynn/Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19 315400 4623190

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

"Bend of the Lane", 181 Cedar Avenue, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. As a vernacular Georgian house routinely expanded during its continuous association with dairy farming in Swansea over two centuries, 181 Cedar Avenue meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

A vernacular farmhouse, 181 Cedar Avenue is architecturally important in Swansea as an excellent example of the 18th-century farmstead that has been continually enlarged and adapted to meet the needs of its owners. The house was constructed in three stages from ca. 1740 to the late 1920s/early 1930s. The main block (ca. 1740) is a 2½-story, double-pile, gabled structure oriented south; it is unclear whether the original facade of the house was four or five bays in width. A later brick chimney pierces the southerly slope of the roof near the eastern end of the block. Double-hung windows contain 8/8 sash. On the north side is a 1½-story gabled ell (ca. 1850) with steeply pitched roof that rises to meet the ridge of the main block. Windows in the ell contain 6/6 sash. The final addition is the south wing, formerly a three-bay half house, with gable roof, end-bay entry, and 12/12 window sash. The entrance in this wing, now the main entrance to the house, is undistinguished except for trellis panels (ca. 1930) to either side that simulate an enclosed porch.

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

This house has a continuous association with prominent farmers in Swansea. Harlow Luther is recorded as the builder of the house in 1740. Luther was a farmer and dairyman who located his house at the bend in Cedar Avenue, formerly known as Cedar Lane. Owners in the 19th century include Victor Gardner of the widely known farming family that settled primarily on Gardner's Neck, and Philander Wilbur, a prominent Swansea resident who continued the dairy business, raising cattle and selling milk. The barn was originally used for dairy operations, housing machinery for processing the milk. For a while in the mid-20th century the barn served as a gift shop.

In its present massing and orientation the house illustrates changing functional and aesthetic preferences on the part of the farm's owners. Constructed as a typical 2½-story gabled house with facade oriented south, the house was expanded with the addition of a 1½-story gabled rear ell ca. 1850. With the introduction of mechanical heating, the southerly orientation of the house became less of a practical concern, and the late 19th-century construction of the barn reoriented the functional focus of the property to the east toward Cedar Avenue. In the late 1920s/early 1930s, the 1½-story gabled wing was grafted onto the house's former facade; whether the original facade was five bays or four bays, as seen at 262 Cedar Avenue (MHC #113), has not been determined. The new wing, actually a half-house, had been moved from the old William Buffington homestead on the east side of lower Cedar Avenue. On that property, this detached half-house had been known as "the old house"; a mid 18th-century date is likely.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Swansea, 1917. (O.O. Wright)  
Bristol County records, Taunton, and Registry of Deeds, Fall River.  
Luther, Leslie. The Luther Family in America. 1976.  
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA	Form No: 112
Property Name: 181 Cedar Avenue	

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

The property includes an intact shingled barn in good condition, one of the best preserved late 19th-century barns in Swansea. Situated north of the house immediately adjacent to the street, this 1½-story barn retains a square louvered cupola at the roof ridge and vertical board sliding doors opening out to Cedar Avenue.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

64

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

120

JAN 02 1990

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 703 Pearse Road

Historic Name John Brown IV House

Use: Present residence

Original farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1752

Source will of John Brown, 1752

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1950)

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

entry portico, triple window, S bay (ca. 1932)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 1.84 acres

Setting Seaside location with sweeping

view of Cole's River. Surrounding

residential construction primarily

late 19th/early 20th century.

Recorded by G. Goff/K. Flynn/K. Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached)

UTM REFERENCE 19 314680 4621740

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John Brown House, 703 Pearse Road, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association and meets Criteria A and C on the local level. An excellent Georgian style house located in the Touisset section of South Swansea, the structure is a well-preserved example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized settlement at Touisset and other shoreline areas in town prior to rapid summer resort development and suburbanization at the turn of the 20th century.

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

This 2½-story, 5-bay Georgian house with center-chimney, double-pile plan is an excellent example of its type in Swansea, representing the high-style structures built by the area's more prosperous families of the 18th century. Distinguishing features include a dentil cornice, cornerboards, molded heads on windows containing 12/12 sash, and two pedimented dormers containing 8/8 sash. The Colonial Revival style is displayed by the semi-enclosed entry portico, triple window above, and square bay window on the south side, all ca. 1932 additions.

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

A fine example of the fashionable homes built by prosperous residents in Old Swansea, 703 Pearse Road is situated along the Cole's River and roughly one-half mile from the eastern border of Warren, Rhode Island. Deed research has shown that the property belonged to John Brown IV (1675-1752), a member of the prominent Brown family of Plymouth Colony and Rhode Island. Brown was "a man of importance in public affairs and one of the leading men of the [Plymouth] Colony." [Wright, 200] It is unclear whether Brown and his wife Abigail lived in this house or another Georgian house at 793 Pearse Road to the south. Both houses were owned by the family. The original farm of 56 acres extended west from the Cole River, with a dilapidated family cemetery at the western end of the property. The present house lot of almost two acres consists of open lawns and woodlot.

Maintaining a sweeping view of the Cole's River and Gardner's Neck beyond, the Brown House at Touisset presents a striking contrast to the other extant mid- to late 18th-century farmhouses on Gardner's Neck, which are modest single-story capes. Both areas were characterized by widespread farms until the second half of the 19th century, when construction of the Fall River & Providence Railroad spurred summer resort and later suburban development here. The Brown House today is surrounded by this later residential construction, and displays cosmetic alterations executed ca. 1932.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

-Deed Research: Will of John Brown (1675-1752) to his son Jeremiah (1710-1776), Book 13, p. 134, Probate Court of Taunton. Jeremiah left no will but his son Jarvis (1733-1809) describes the property in his will, Book 45, pp.95-97. On 1/13/1911 George P. Brown sold the homestead to Job L. Davis, Fall River Registry of (see continuation sheet)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA, MA.

Form No:

Property Name: John Brown IV House

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

Bibliography and/or References (continued)

Deeds, Book 162, p. 543, who in 10/7/1925 deeded it to Robert L. Anthony, Book 348, p. 54, from whom the present owner Richard Bowen in 1951 bought the property.

- Wright, O.O., History of Swansea, 1917, p. 200.
- Maps
- Mrs. Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

113

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 262 Cedar Avenue

Historic Name Deacon John Buffington House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1790

Source visual analysis

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings misc. small sheds

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

rear ell (prob. mid-19th cent.)

Condition good

Moved no Date --

Acreage approximately one acre

Setting house oriented south in

rural residential area

UTM REFERENCE 19 315540 4623100

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by Gendron & Travers/K. Flynn/Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Deacon John Buffington House, 262 Cedar Avenue, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets Criterion C on the local level as one of the few intact examples of the three-quarter house extant in Swansea.

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

This gabled, 2½-story, three-quarter house has a four-bay facade with the entry and brick chimney located in the third bay. The vernacular Georgian dwelling displays little architectural embellishment other than thin cornerboards and slightly articulated window heads on the first floor facade windows. The door surround is equally simple, consisting of plain boards. A secondary entrance is located on the west side of a two-story, gabled, rear ell to the north. Six-over-six window sash and the rear ell most likely date to the mid-19th century. While 262 Cedar Avenue lacks distinguishing architectural detail, the dwelling is significant as one of the best preserved examples of the 2½-story, three-quarter house form in Swansea.

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

John Buffington, earliest documented owner of the house, was deacon of the Christian Church (MHC #10), located north of Cedar Avenue on Maple Avenue at Swansea Center. His daughter married Elder William Miller, pastor of the same church, a popular man of local reputation. At least three generations of Millers are known to have occupied this house. Elder Miller and his descendants also engaged in farming and fishing, which comprised the mainstay of Swansea's economy in the 18th and 19th centuries. This house was one of at least two Buffington homesteads established between Cedar Avenue (formerly Cedar Lane) and the Cole's River in the 18th century.

The Buffington family occupied an important place in the development of Swansea. Thomas Bovanton (later Buffington) emigrated from Wales ca. 1671, settling first in Salem and later in Swansea. Members of the family were associated with the establishment of the first Friends Meeting in Swansea in 1701. Numerous Buffington descendants built homes throughout Swansea, with a significant cluster located east of Luther's Corner/Swansea Center in the Cedar Avenue vicinity.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.  
New England Families, p.338, Swansea Public Library.  
Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River, and Registry of Probate, Taunton.  
1849 map of Swansea, and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County, Swansea Public Library.  
Fall River Herald News, Wed. May 22, 1929.



JAN 02 1990

75  
AREA

FORM NO.

10

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA  
Address G. A. R. Highway (U. S. Rte. 6)  
Historic Name Church of Christ, Swansea  
[also: First Christian Congregational Church]  
Use: Present Religious services  
Original Religious services

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1833  
Source Church records/D. H. Hurd  
Style Greek Revival  
Architect unknown  
Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard  
Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) enlargement/int. renovations (1873);  
1-story education wing, E side (1966)  
Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting heavily developed commercial  
area with major traffic along G. A. R.  
highway

UTM REFERENCE 19 314980 4624300

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by H. Pierce/K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 1986/October 1989



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Church of Christ, Swansea (now the First Christian Congregational Church) retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The church meets Criterion A for its associations with the non-sectarian Christian church organized in the town in the late 17th century, and Criterion C as an important local example of Greek Revival architecture. The church also meets Criterion Consideration A as a religious property deriving its primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance.

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

The present church is the second on the site. The first meetinghouse, built in 1720 of oak and chestnut timbers, was unique in that it was heated. [Hurd and Hutt] In 1815, the roof of this square meetinghouse was blown off, and replaced so that the former ends of the structure became the sides. Dedicated in 1833, the present 1½-story structure is of rectangular massing with a pedimented gable-front facade. Six paneled pilasters partition the facade into bays, the center bay containing a double-door entrance in a round-arched surround. Long double windows flanking the entrance are topped with ogee-arched heads; another blind ogee fan ornaments the pediment. Rising from the two-stage square tower is an octagonal cupola with louvered pointed-arch openings. Gabled one-story extensions to the rear (north side) of the building are likely the result of the 1873 remodeling which focused on the interior. An organ built in the church in 1868 by E. & G. Hook was restored in 1963 and repaired in 1978. The empire pulpit was a gift from the Central Congregational Church, Fall River, in 1875.

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

The Church of Christ, Swansea was formally organized in 1693. Services held as early as 1680, however, may qualify the congregation as one of the oldest in New England. [Swansea Tercen.] The church is historically significant for its ecclesiastical independence, never having had a legal connection with the town and therefore never supported by taxation. The church imposed no doctrinal tests as conditions of admission, and was open to all Christians regardless of the specific tenets of their faith. In 1725 the members decided to receive additional members only by the "laying on of hands." The church was briefly associated with the Six-Principle Baptist Church of Swansea from 1803 to 1820 and thereafter operated independently.

During the 18th and early 19th centuries, the pastors of the church were all members of the Mason family, descendants of Samson Mason, who came to America in the late 17th century. The Greek Revival building was constructed during the pastorate of Richard Davis (Nov. 1830-May 1833), although the structure was not ready for occupancy until the beginning of the ministry of his successor, James J. Thatcher. Rev. Thatcher, a well-known Swansea minister, went on to serve as pastor to the First Baptist Church in North Swansea in the 1840s.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Hurd, Duane H. History of Bristol County, Mass. Philadelphia, 1883.  
Hutt, Frank Walcott. A History of Bristol County, Mass. NY: Lewis Hist. Publ. Co., 1924.  
Pierce, Helen, ed. Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967. Swansea, MA, 1967.  
Wright, Otis Olney. History of Swansea 1667-1917. Swansea, MA, 1917.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

B

20

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and  
white) Indicate address of  
property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 412 Old Warren Road

Historic Name Benjamin Cole House

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1701

Source Wright, Hist. of Swansea

Style Georgian/Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1890),

garage (ca. 1950), misc. small sheds

Major Alterations (with dates) probable

remodeling (18th cent.), rear ell (ca. 1850)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 4 acres

Setting Rural residential setting west of

Luther's Corner; house occupies a knoll

in a clearing; road moderately travelled

Recorded by R.M. Doodson/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and/or  
geographical features. Indicate all buildings  
between inventoried property and nearest  
intersection(s).

Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 314350 4623320

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Cole House, 412 Old Warren Road, meets Criterion A as an intact farmstead reflecting the early agricultural settlement of Old Swansea and Criterion C as a well-preserved example of an 18th-century Georgian/Federal vernacular farmhouse. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, the Cole House is significant on the local level.

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

The oldest documented house in Swansea (1701), the Cole House is a 2½-story, gabled and clapboarded structure noted for its massive brick center chimney. This farmhouse, likely remodelled in the Federal period, has a symmetrical, five-bay, center-entry facade, a double-pile plan, and a 1½-story gabled rear ell with a secondary entry on the north side. The center entry, built out with a hipped roof enclosure marked by wide corner pilasters, contains a vertical board door with iron strap hinges set in a plain surround. Cornerboards and sill boards finish both main block and ell. Other detailing included dripboards on windows of the main block, 2/2 sash on the facade, and 9/6 sash on the sides. The rear ell, added ca. 1850, displays a square eave window over the entrance on the north side and a single double-hung window in the gable end of the west side.

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

The Coles of Swansea are descendants of James Cole of Plymouth, the first Cole to come to America. His grandson, Benjamin Cole (1678-1748), who was born in Swansea, married in 1701 and built this house. The house has a long association with agriculture in Swansea, owned first by the Coles and later by the Wilbur family, who operated the farm from the early 19th century until well into the 20th century. Oriented east on a colonial road through Old Swansea connecting Luther's Corner/Swansea Center with the present Warren, Rhode Island, the Cole house is a fine example of the dispersed, self-sufficient farmsteads that characterized Swansea settlement in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Dairy farming was the farm's focus, supplemented by market gardening in the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

Architecturally, the house is significant as the earliest extant house in Swansea. There are indications of remodeling later in the 18th century, including the treatment of the main doorway, as well as the double range of rooms arranged under a wide gable roof rather than in a lean-to format. The former is not commonly seen in center-chimney houses of southeastern Massachusetts until the 1730s and 1740s [MHC, 134].

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bristol County records, Taunton, Mass. and Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Mass.  
Assessors records, Swansea Town Hall, and 1849 map of Swansea, Swansea Public Library.  
Cole Genealogy, E. B. Cole, 1635.  
Wright, O. O. History of Swansea, 1917. 707.03 1880  
Mass. Hist. Comm. State Survey Team, Historic and Archaeological Resources of  
SE Mass., 1982.



JAN 02 1990

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

F

(see District Data Sheet)

Town

Swansea, Mass. MRA  
Swansea

Name of Area (if any)

The Colony Historic District

Present Use

residential

General Date or Period

1896-ca. 1930

General Condition

good

Acreage

4.31 acres (approx.)

Recorded by

Preservation Plus/K. Broomer

Organization

Swansea Historical Commission

Date

March 1988/November 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white) Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE

A 19 316610 4619690

B 19 316330 4619580

C 19 316390 4619770

USGS QUADRANGLE  
SCALE

Fall River, MA-RI 1971/1979

1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Colony, a cohesive waterfront cluster of late 19th and early 20th-century cottages, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The Colony meets Criterion A for its association with summer resort and later suburban development in the shoreline areas of Swansea, and Criterion C as a well-preserved grouping of Shingle and Colonial Revival style cottages.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The Colony (Photo #1) covers a small area of approximately 4.31 acres at the southeastern tip of Gardner's Neck in South Swansea. Passive and active use of adjacent water resources--Mt. Hope Bay to the south and Lee's River to the east--was a factor in the development of the cottage cluster. The district consists of seven cottages on parcels ranging from one-third of an acre to one acre in size, at the end of Gardner's Neck Road and on both sides of Mattapoissett Avenue, a private road from Gardner's Neck Road to the shoreline. Two of the residences are noncontributing, one due to alterations and another due to its construction date. Two parcels in the Colony remain vacant, as does the eastern edge of the development immediately on the water.

Five contributing residences were built between 1896 and ca. 1930. The character of the district is determined by the compatible designs of the cottages, the most notable feature being the broad gambrel roofs. Other common features include the single-family use and small scale. The district's architectural significance lies in the distinctive characteristics

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Arch. Sig. (cont'd): of the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles as they were popularized and adapted to seaside residential construction in the northeastern (see continuation sheet)

Hist. Sig.: The Colony's historical significance lies in its association with resort and ensuing suburban development in Swansea at the turn of the 20th century, a time when residents of neighboring industrialized cities such as Fall River sought alternatives to urban living. Early owners of these homes were mostly Fall River businessmen.

The land upon which the Colony was built was known in the late 17th century as Mattapoissett. Purchased from King Philip of the Wampanoags by the Brentons of Newport, the territory was conveyed in 1693 to Samuel Gardner and Ralph Chapman. The Gardner family farmed much of the southern portion of the territory--now known as Gardner's Neck in South Swansea--until construction of the Fall River & Providence Railroad across the Neck in 1865. With the railroad accessibility came subdivision of farms for the construction of summer homes in the last quarter of the 19th century. Greater accessibility generated by later transportation improvements such as the streetcar and the automobile contributed to steady suburbanization of the Neck beginning in the early 20th century.

In 1883 David Anthony, a founder of the Swift Meat Packing Company of Fall River, purchased Bay Point, or the southern tip of Gardner's Neck along Mt. Hope Bay. He operated a farm on

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- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA, MA.	Form No:
Property Name: THE COLONY	

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

states. This is an intact complex of residences and is unique in Swansea. The houses are evocative of the simplified and informal life at the shore, at that time, a newly evaluated condition of American living.

Although the character and the significance of this district is in the similarities of the cottages, there are a few variations within the gambrel roof theme. Built in 1896, No. 28 Mattapoissetts Avenue (F-148) was the first residence of the Colony. It is a two-story, three-bay structure which is distinguished by its gambrel roof with dormers, a wrapped porch with plain columns, an offset single chimney, and the unifying wood shingle exterior. Neighboring No. 15 Mattapoissett Avenue (F-147) was built in 1898. This is also a two-story gambrel, however, with four-bays and a three-sided porch, part of which is typically enclosed. There is a triple shed dormer with two over two lights, echoing the other windows. This cottage was designed and built by its owner, A.T. Marvel from Fall River. Nos. 28 and 15 Mattapoissett Avenue are two of the most preserved cottages of The Colony as they are still summer residences.

The third cottage built in The Colony in 1905 was No. 1536 Gardner Neck Road (F-152) and retains all the regular features such as two-story, gambrel roof, open and enclosed porch and shed dormers. However, it has a center gable under which is an enclosed porch that is directly over the front porch.

Built in 1920, No. 1562 Gardner Neck Road is the southernmost cottage directly on Mt. Hope Bay. Visually cut off from the other cottages of The Colony with dense landscaping, this residence has departed from the design of the typical Colony cottage, having undergone extensive rebuilding due to the 1938 and 1954 hurricanes.

Another cottage of the 1920s is No. 35 Mattapoissett Avenue. The original was larger but now retains the large garden to the east of the cottage as well as a six-stall garage/stable of original fabric. The residence is a modest structure not unlike the others in size and setting, however, it is a Dutch Colonial that diverges from the characteristic Colony house in that it has no porch and is not shingled.

A vernacular Colonial Revival cape at 45 Mattapoissett Avenue is also compatible with the earlier houses in size, scale, and materials but features a broad, low-pitched gable roof rather than the gambrel roof of the other cottages. The house at 1550 Gardner's Neck Road is a contemporary cottage built ca. 1950.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: The Colony H. D.

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

Historical Significance (continued)

the western end of the property until 1895, when he built a large Queen Anne house, now 98 Bay Point Avenue (1895, MHC #F149). Anthony's house is one of the earliest summer homes on Gardner's Neck. In 1896 Anthony sold "four acres across from his farmhouse", the present Colony property, to Robert A. Wilcox and Eric Borden. The parcel was divided into eleven lots with a private road (Mattapoissett Avenue) extending from Gardner's Neck Road to the river. Unique to this development was the fact that the owners were deeded certain rights in common: use of the private road, right-of-way to the beach and boat landing area, and use of the well water then drawn from two of the lots.

According to plot plans, seven families purchased lots in the development for the construction of summer homes between 1896 and 1902. At least two of the original houses, the vernacular Shingle Style cottages closest to the Lee's River, are extant. One cottage belonging to Abner P. Davol, owner of a Fall River mill, is 28 Mattapoissett Avenue (1896, MHC #F148). This residence was built by J.M. Darling of Fall River, and may have been designed by Edward Marvel, a local architect then active in the development of the Neck. The second cottage, 15 Mattapoissett Avenue (1898, MHC #F147), was owned by Annie P. Marvel and designed by Edward Marvel. Shingle Style houses, though comparatively rare in the immediate region, were typically associated with this type of coastal resort development in the 1880s and 1890s. [MHC, 147]

The district's remaining houses reflect the steady suburbanization of Gardner's Neck in the early decades of the 20th century. The gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival at 1536 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1905, MHC #F152), is typical of local suburban construction of its period in Swansea. Later but visually compatible houses include the Dutch Colonial Revival H. M. Prescott House (ca. 1920, MHC #F165), built on the site of an earlier house of ca. 1902, and the vernacular Colonial Revival cape at 45 Mattapoissett Avenue (ca. 1930). It is unclear whether this cape, an altered Colonial Revival anchoring the southern end of the development at 1562 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1920, MHC #F164), and the contemporary house at 1550 Gardner's Neck Road (ca. 1950), were built on sites of earlier summer cottages in the Colony. Severe hurricanes in 1938 and 1954 account for the extensive rebuilding of #1562 and possibly the new construction at #1550, as these two lots have direct water frontage. Nonetheless, the lots and cottages at this southeastern tip of Gardner's Neck retain their identity as the Colony seaside community of South Swansea.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Colony Historic District consists of all lots comprising the 1896 subdivision known as the Colony. Although two of the original lots support contemporary or noncontributing buildings, the development maintains its identity as a single unit. See attached assessor's map for boundaries.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA, MA.

Form No:

Property Name: THE COLONY

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

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Assessors Records - Swansea

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- D.M. Anthony to Robert A. Wilcox and Eric Borden - 1896, Book 31, p. 287.

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Massachusetts Historical Commission State Survey Team. Historic and Archaeological Resources of Southeast Massachusetts. Boston: MHC, 1982.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

## FORM B - BUILDING

JAN 02 1990

60

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

7

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address Baptist Street

Historic Name First Baptist Church and  
Society/First Baptist Cemetery

Use: Present Church services and  
activities

Original Church services

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1731 (cemetery);  
1848/1849 (church)

Source Thatcher, Hist. Sketch  
300th Anniversary Yearbook

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Wooden clapboard

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates)

Addition - educational wing 1963

Condition good (church);

fair (cemetery)

Moved No Date --

Acreage approximately one acre (total)

Setting Now at the apex of a busy inter-  
section, this church is not easily noticed  
because of its poor access on a now access  
street. Located in front across the street  
is the original cemetery.

Recorded by K. Valente/V. Frost

Organization H. Pierce '78 / K. Broomer  
Swansea Historical Commission

Date April 1986 / October 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and  
white) Indicate address of  
property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and/or  
geographical features. Indicate all buildings  
between inventoried property and nearest  
intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(See attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 311390 4626630

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971-79

SCALE 1:24000



### **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The First Baptist Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and feeling. It is significant under criterion A in its association with the First Baptist Church in Massachusetts (1664) and the fourth in America. It represents an intact example of a Greek Revival church evocative of the size and means of a rural congregation in the mid-19th century, therefore meeting criterion C. The property also meets Criteria Considerations A and D, by virtue of the church, an architecturally distinctive religious property in Swansea, and the cemetery, the only extant evidence of the Baptist Church's relocation to present-day Swansea in the early 18th century.

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

The First Baptist Church of Swansea, Massachusetts is a rectangular, 3 x 2 bay Greek Revival frame structure measuring 36'6" x 44'6". One tall story in height on a full basement, the structure has a gable roof terminating at the northeast end in a full pediment. The roof, now covered with modern asphalt shingles, is surmounted by a square bell tower with low hipped roof centered above the entrance. A large, two-story educational wing has been added to the rear section of the southeast side wall (1968) sensitively designed so as not to intrude.

The square bell tower has a full cornice at all four sides, consisting of a cyma-recta crown mold on a quirked ovolo over a flat fascia. The upper part of the wall surfaces is enriched with a flat architrave panel that rests on the paneled corner pilasters with oversized plinth blocks. Each wall has a battered (trapezoid) louvered opening, framed with an ancon architrave with molded cap and lug sill. The walls are sheathed with clapboard, 4" exposure. The bell tower rests on a low, square base, now covered with later horizontal sheathing.

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

This simple New England Church building was dedicated in 1849. However, it houses the First Baptist Church in Massachusetts and the fourth in America, founded in 1664 by the Reverend John Myles exiled from Swansea Wales. To him and others in 1667, the Court at Plymouth granted all the land between the Providence and Taunton Rivers from Rehoboth and Taunton south to Narragansett Bay to form a new town which they called Swansea. The site of the first Church building was in the present town of Barrington, R.I. After its destruction in King Phillip's War, another was built and moved to North Swansea in 1700. This was replaced by another in 1717, said to be the oldest Baptist House in America and used until the present one was constructed.

Baptist churches had been kept out of every New England colony except Rhode Island. An attempt was made and defeated to form one in 1639 in Weymouth. The history of this church relates to the religious and secular interests of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for more than two and a half centuries. It is connected to the important liberal and free thinking in the colonies. Several of the present contiguous towns, including Warren and Barrington in Rhode Island and Somerset in Massachusetts formed a part of Swansea. John Myles and Captain Thomas Willet, who later became the first English mayor of New York on its cessation from the Dutch, were among the most active in the organization.

This particular religious group was the reorganization of an exiled church driven from Swansea, Wales where John Myles began his ministry in 1645. "The Act of Uniformity", which was meant to

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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Thatcher, Rev. J. J. Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church, Swansea, 1663-1863.  
Fall River: Wm. S. Robertson, 1863.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA, MA.

Form No:

7

Property Name: First Baptist Church and  
Society

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

The main roof has a full entablature consisting of a cornice of a quirked ovolo crown mold on flat frieze with a Grecian echinus bed mold, over a wide architrave with flat fillet at the upper edge and a quirked ovolo separating the panel into two horizontal fascias. The cornice section of the entablature, but not the architrave returns across the northeast end wall to create the full pediment. The raking cornice at both end walls consists of a Grecian echinus crown on a quirked ovolo and flat frieze, with a second echinus repeated as the bed mold, resting on a fillet and flat frieze panel. The exterior corners of the structure are defined by full height pilasters (two recessed panels at each face) with deeply undercut quirked ovolo capitals and triple fascia necking. The entire structure is surrounded with a flat sill board.

The pedimented northeast end wall is separated into three bays by the addition of two pilaster strips, with paired 12/12 double hung sash flanking the central entrance. The windows have a continuous molded cap, echinus ovolo, flat casings and lug sills. The double entrance door is later, but the solid transom may be original, with paired recessed panels trimmed with flattened ogee sticking. The doors are surrounded by the same casings and cap used at the paired windows, and are served by a short run of later flagstone steps, with later wrought iron railings. The pedimented gable is blind. All of the exterior walls are sheathed with clapboards, 4" exposure.

The southwest and northwest side elevations repeat the paired window units, with two at each wall. The rear end wall has a 6/6 double hung window in the gable area (which is not pedimented). The window is partially obscured by a later brick exterior chimney. The remainder of this wall is blind.

The entire structure sits on a high brick foundation, stuccoed and scored to simulate ashlar. The southeast wall has three 6/6 double hung windows, the rear wall two, while the northwest basement wall has two three light tilting casements.

The interior of the auditorium plan church has a full width vestibule opening directly to the exterior, with three doors serving the nave and chancel. A full width choir loft over the vestibule is supported by the cross partition that separates the two areas of the first floor -- this wall and the choir loft may not be original, and appear to be of late 19th century construction.

The vestibule has plastered walls and ceiling, with the ceiling partially obscuring the solid transom with its ogee trimmed panels. The later doors are cased with ogee on echinus architraves, the architrave details repeated on the side walls (to the choir loft in the southeast wall, to a closet in the northwest wall) and at the three communicating doors in the cross partition leading to the nave. All interior doors are of a four vertical recessed panel design with ogee on echinus sticking, and are hung on two part iron butts, with brown porcelain knob mortise locks. The paired windows flanking the entrance are cased with flat architraves, and a molded cap visible in the choir loft. A wood base mold has an ogee on echinus cap. The floor is vinyl asbestos tile (1956).

The nave is the epitome of restrained Greek Revival church design, with a plaster ceiling divided into four full width coffered recessed panels. The bays are defined by deep plaster cornices consisting of a cavetto crown molding on a flat fascia. This cornice is repeated at the full entablature that surrounds the interior of the one-room plan church, supplemented by a frieze of a cyma-reversa on bead crown and an undercut fascia, and a wide architrave

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: SWANSEA, MA.	Form No: 7
Property Name: First Baptist Church and Society	

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

consisting of an echinus on echinus bed mold to the frieze over a flat fillet, and a quirked ogee on bead horizontal band that divides the architrave into two parts, the lower section a stepped fascia. The interior corners of the church are provided with plat pilaster strips, with the entablature at the ceiling swelling to serve as capitals. The rear wall of the sanctuary or chancel has two additional pilasters, dividing it into three bays. The secondary pilasters have round headed recessed vertical panels and capitals that terminate at the lower edge of the ceiling entablature consisting of a fillet over a quirked cyma-recta with bead and a flat fascia. The necking at these two pilasters has an undercut Grecian echinus over a smaller echinus and a flat fascia. The entire rear wall of the chancel has a 30" tall wood wainscot, with torus cap.

Doors in the cross partition supporting the leading edge of the choir loft are cased with the same architrave as used at the vestibule side, but the inner edges are finished with a bead. The paired windows have ogee on bead caps and flat casings. The walls are plaster on lath, the floor random width pine, painted.

There are two banks of eight rows each of box pews in the nave, served by side and center aisles. The banks are divided by a partition, creating a total of 32 individual pews, which are probably original. The chancel or sanctuary has a raised central platform (earlier used for the organ) with a paneled low wall at the front edge, flanked by two lower platforms for the choir. The entire area is set off from the nave with later (1956) rails with turned newels and balusters.

The outer face of the wall of the choir loft is divided into five horizontal panels, with ogee and fascia moldings, and is capped with a Grecian echinus rail. The interior of the loft itself is undecorated except for the ceiling entablature and the upper sections of the corner pilasters. There is a trap door in the ceiling of the loft area serving the bell tower. The bell, inscribed, G. H. Holbrook, Medway, Mass., 1837, was donated to the church in April, 1896. Access to the choir loft is provided by a ten riser turning stair in the northeast corner of the vestibule. The skirt is a simple beaded panel. A similar stair to the cellar chases this stair at the first floor. The cellar has been refinished (mid 20th century) to serve as a meeting room. There is nothing of architectural value.

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## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA, MA

Form No:

7

Property Name: First Baptist Church  
and Society

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

Historical Significance (cont'd)

conform religions to the Church of England, was passed in 1662 and John Myles was ejected from his post. The first documentation of him in this country was in 1663 when the "First Baptist Church in Swansea" was organized. It was constituted at Rehoboth, Bristol County, in the house of John Butterworth and the constituent members were John Myles, Pastor, James Brown, Nicholas Tanner, Joseph Carpenter, John Butterworth, Eldad Kingsley, and Benjamin Alby. This group was advised to desist so that they would not prejudice any other church. After this order Mr. Myles and his church relocated to New Meadow Neck south of Rehoboth, now Barrington, Rhode Island. They appear to have erected a house for worship soon after their removal beyond the bounds of Rehoboth. This house appears to have been located about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of the present church. In 1667 the Plymouth Court, being more tolerant than the Mass. Colony, granted to this church a grant of the town to be called Swansea.

The interests and size of the congregation fluctuated through the 18th and early 19th centuries. Worship continued in the 1717 meetinghouse in North Swansea, a structure of oak timbers,  $41\frac{1}{2}'$  by 33' wide, which remained unplastered with beams exposed on the interior until a remodelling in 1802. This meetinghouse included three galleries. The present structure was built under the direction of the Rev. J. J. Thatcher, pastor of the church from 1846 to 1854. There were 25 members of the church at the end of Thatcher's pastorate, increasing to 87 members by 1863.

The old Baptist Cemetery (MHC #833), also included in the nomination, is defined by a rubblestone wall and contains approximately 37 stones from the period between 1731 and 1819. The setting of both church and cemetery has been threatened in recent years by development oriented toward the intersection of Routes 6 and 136 to the southeast.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

F

142

Town

Swansea, Mass. MRA

SWANSEA

Address

1129 Gardner's Neck Road

Historic Name

Francis L. Gardner

Use: Present

Residence

Original

Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date

1903

Source

Assessors' Records

Style

Colonial Revival

Architect

Edward I. Marvell

Exterior Wall Fabric

Stained shingles

Outbuildings

3-car garage with back workshop

Major Alterations (with dates) Railing about

upper deck removed c. 1950. (at rear)

Condition

Excellent with original fabric

intact.

Moved

No

Date

Acreage

One acre or less

Setting

Situated on an open flat lot,

this substantial house is well sited in a prominent neighborhood.

Recorded by

Kay Flynn/Ruth Waring, May 1978

Organization

Swansea Historical Commission

Date

January 1986

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE

19 316780 4620900

USGS QUADRANGLE

Fall River, MA:R.I. 1967-79

SCALE

1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Francis L. Gardner House, 1129 Gardner's Neck Road, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling. It meets criterion A in its association with community development from market gardens to suburbia, and Criterion C as a well-preserved architect-designed Colonial Revival house in early 20th-century Swansea. The house is significant on the local level.

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

This substantial, though not elaborate, Colonial Revival house built in 1903 was designed by a prominent Fall River architect, Edward I. Marvell. The characteristic features of this 2-1/2-story, 3-bay Colonial Revival are its hipped roof with full-width, one-story porch, square plan, two brick chimneys with Tudor Revival design, paned windows in the hipped dormers, 2-story side bay window, and decorative tracery above some of the one-over-one light windows.

The interior has the original oak panelling; oak staircase with carved newel post; oak fireplace with Italian marble tiles. There are leaded glass panels by and over the front door.

The exterior of the house is unchanged except for the removal of the railing on the upper deck of the house. It has been carefully maintained by its present owner and stands as an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture.

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

This house was built on the site of a large old farmhouse, the home of Leland Gardner, a descendant of the original purchaser of Gardner's Neck. Leland Gardner conducted extensive market gardening on the large farm. The greenhouses used for the propagation of the plants contain fifty thousand square feet of glass. The produce was mainly celery, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Much of it was shipped each evening on the famous Fall River Line boats to New York City where it was served in the best hotels. Mr. Gardner's sons Francis and Chester, continued this thriving business until about 1925 after which much of the property was sold for home sites. The greenhouses have been demolished.

Francis L. Gardner, son of Leland Gardner, had this house designed and built in 1903. It is typical of the more substantial type of development that was being built in the affluent areas in Swansea. The town was evolving from an agricultural to suburban town. F.L. Gardner was a town selectman for many years.

Market gardening occurred in scattered locations in Swansea during the first decade of the 20th century. In addition to F. L. Gardner & Co., other market gardeners were established at Hortonville and Touisset. The Gardner family business appears to have been the only one of its kind operating on the Neck at a time when the area suburban development was flourishing.

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76  
JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

F

143

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEAAddress 1205 Gardner's Neck RoadHistoric Name Joseph Gardner HouseUse: Present residenceOriginal residence/farmhouse

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1795Source will of Peleg Gardner (1789) et al.Style FederalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric wood clapboardOutbuildings 2-stall wood barn

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Facade extended 17' to south (ca. 1877)Condition goodMoved no Date ---Acreage 1.25 acresSetting primarily late 19th-centuryand 20th-century suburban housessurrounding; trees at property lineRecorded by R. Waring/K. Flynn/K. BroomerOrganization Swansea Historical CommissionDate April 1978/January 1986/October 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 316640 4620660USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Joseph Gardner House, 1205 Gardner's Neck Road, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The house meets Criterion A for its association with the 18th-century settlement of Gardner's Neck in South Swansea, and Criterion C as an intact cape with expansions associated with its late 19th-century use as a summer home. The house is significant on the local level.

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

A 1½-story, five-bay, center-entry cape with central brick chimney, the original Gardner House at 1205 Gardner's Neck Road is typical of 18th-century farmhouse construction in Swansea. The original chimney has three fireplaces on the ground floor and one in the upstairs north room. Certain features date to a ca. 1877 remodeling, at which time the house was expanded to accommodate a second family. A 17', 3-bay, double-pile addition was made to the south end of the facade, providing a secondary front door, a one-story porch with columns spanning the south side of the house, and a side door on the south elevation. The 6/6 window sash and round-arched glazing in the original front entry also likely date to the later period. The house illustrates the adaptation of the 18th-century farmhouses on Gardner's Neck to serve late 19th-century summer home uses.

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

John and Joseph Gardner, brothers, were the sons of Col. Peleg Gardner (1719-1789), whose father, Samuel, with Ralph Chapman, bought Gardner's Neck from the Brentons of Newport in 1693. King Philip of the Wampanoags had sold this portion of the Indian territory to the Brentons.

Col. Gardner in his will left adjoining 35-acre parcels of farmland to his sons John and Joseph. The latter purchased his brother's parcel, on which the present house stands, when John moved to Somerset. John married Betsey Slade of Somerset, and Joseph married her sister, Hannah. This house is one of the few survivals of the Gardner family settlement of the Neck in the 18th century.

The Gardners maintained the property as a farm until 1854. In 1874, the house and 50 acres were acquired by Andrew J. Borden and his business partner, William Almy, both of Fall River. Mr. and Mrs. Borden and their daughters, Lizzie and Emma, used the house as a summer residence for a number of years. The house was enlarged with a 17-foot south addition with porch and secondary front door to accommodate the Almy family. The house served as a summer home for several families until the Hudner family made it a year-round residence in 1946.

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JAN 02 1990

61

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

110

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 90 Milford Road

Historic Name Preserved Gardner House

Use: Present Town of Swansea--Memorial Park  
& Veterans Benefits Dept.

Original farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1820

Source visual analysis

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1890)

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

rear and side ell, porches (late 19th cent.)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

approximately 2 acres (nominated);  
Acreage total property 29 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres

Setting On a main road with moderate

setback. Later wood post fence (ca. 1970)

at street edge of property. Scattered

residential development surrounding.

Recorded by K. Flynn/K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1988/November 1989

- Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo.
- Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached)

UTM REFERENCE 19 317120 4624250

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1987

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Preserved Gardner House, 90 Milford Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and meets Criteria A and C on the local level. A typical example of an early 19th-century farmhouse that evolved over the years into a summer home, 90 Milford Road is also significant for its association with the locally prominent Gardner family of Swansea.

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

Typical of the dispersed Swansea farmstead in its setting, 90 Milford Road is a 2½-story gabled house with 5-bay, center-entry facade and double-pile plan with double interior chimneys. The recessed entry is flanked by three-quarter sidelights and pilasters with Greek key motifs carrying a plain entablature. Other period details include fluted cornerboards and some 12/12 sash in 2nd-story windows. Late 19th-century additions, which are likely attributed to a change in ownership at that time, include the wrap porch with Doric columns and roofline balustrade, corresponding one-bay entry porch on the east elevation, two-story rear ell and one-story east ell, and 2/2 sash in first floor windows.

Immediately east of the house is a 1½-story gabled barn (ca. 1890) with shingled infill in the gable end and vertical board siding below. Approximately 50 yards west of the house on the same lot, tennis and basketball courts and other public recreational facilities have

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

Arch. Sig. (cont'd): been constructed in recent decades. The house and barn constitute the extent of the nominated property.

This house was built by Preserved Gardner, one of the five sons of Peleg Gardner, descendant of the purchaser of Gardner's Neck. Ira Gardner, son of Preserved, inherited the farm which extended from Milford Rd. south to the Cole's River. He sold to the town the large tract east of the house known as Mount Hope Cemetery. Later the farm was purchased by Thomas D. Cove of Fall River who operated it as a gentleman's farm and made the house his summer home. After World War II the town purchased the property to be used by the town as VeteransMem. Park. This house reflects the increasing financial successes experienced by the Gardners after the family's modest 18th-century beginnings in single-story capes farther south on Gardner's Neck. The house also illustrates an established pattern of building usage in Swansea, whereby the early farmhouses were given over to use as summer homes during the local boom in seasonal residential development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Prior to the late 19th-century construction of the streetcar line along the present path of U. S. Route 6, Milford Road was part of a primary interior route from Swansea to Warren, Rhode Island connecting Swasey's Corner east of this house to Luther's Corner to the southwest. The present intersection of Milford Road and Oak Street (Route 118) near Route 6 west of the Gardner House was known as Gardner's Crossing.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Town Records.  
Wright. History of Swansea. 1917.  
1895 atlas of Bristol County.  
Mrs. Helen Pierce, interview, 11/89.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 1035 Gardner's Neck Road

Historic Name Samuel Gardner House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present Residence

Original Farmhouse, residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1768

Source Bristol County Registry of Deeds

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingles

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

1-story north wing (early 19th century?)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Located behind a property sited

on Gardner's Neck Road off a private drive.

Original farmstead on Neck now surrounded

by new (most 20th-cent.) homes.

Recorded by L. Fayan Jr./K. Flynn/K. Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1978/January 1986/October 1989

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 316820 4621140

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Samuel Gardner House, 1035 Gardner's Neck Road, is significant as a well-preserved late 18th-century cape associated with the early settlement of Gardner's Neck in South Swansea. The house retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association and meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

This 1½-story cape with gambrel roof, central brick chimney, and double-pile plan is a good example of typical 18th-century farmhouse construction in Swansea. The heavy gabled hoods of the three facade dormers and the one-story north wing are 19th-century additions; these and the 6/6 sash illustrate the repairs and upgrading the farmhouse sustained with continual use.

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

This section of Swansea, or Mattapoiset, was wilderness when Samuel Gardner of Newport (and later Freetown) and his partner Ralph Chapman bought the land for £1700 from the Rev. Ebenezer Brenton in 1693. Rev. Brenton was the son of the first English land-owner who had purchased Mattapoiset from the Indians in 1664. Gardner and Chapman divided the land between them, with Gardner settling the southern half of the neck located between the Cole and Lee's Rivers.

Gardner deeded parts of his farm to his sons when they came of age. Samuel Gardner (the son) received the northerly portion of his father's farm and built this house after marrying Elizabeth Anthony in 1767. The couple had 13 children. The younger Samuel was later known as "Upper Sam" after his nephew, also Samuel (son of Peleg Gardner), received farmland immediately south from his own father. "Lower Sam" built a house at the present 1443 G. N. Road.

The Gardner family was responsible for much of the 18th and early 19th-century development of Gardner's Neck, including construction of at least five houses along Gardner's Neck Road, the spine. The area remained largely farmland until 1865, when the Fall River & Warren Railroad constructed a station on the Neck, precipitating the construction first of summer houses and then of suburban homes by the early 20th century. The cape at 1035 Gardner's Neck Road is a survival of the limited 18th-century settlement.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Fall River District.  
Pierce, Helen. ed. Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967. Swansea, MA, 1967.



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

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JAN 02 1990

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Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 306 Hortonville Road

Historic Name Hooper House

Use: Present residential

Original residential/farmstead

# DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1790

Source previous owner, visual analysis

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1920), well

house (ca. 1920), barn (late 19th cent.)

(all outbuildings contributing)  
Major Alterations (with dates)

window sash, chimney (mid to late 19th cent)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately two acres

Setting Rural, residential setting;

well-traveled primary route through

town

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date April 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).

Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 317350 4625080

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

Valerie Talmage shps 6/17/90

JAN 2 1990

#### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Hooper House, 306 Hortonville Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is significant on the local level. The house meets Criterion A as an example of early twentieth century adaptive reuse of a farmstead into a "gentleman's farm" and Criterion C as an intact gambrel cape in the Federal style.

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

This 1½-story gambrel cape is a good example of typical late 18th-century farmhouse construction in Swansea. The original center chimney was replaced at an unknown date. The symmetrical five-bay facade features a recessed center entry with sidelights contained in a surround of pilasters carrying a plain entablature. Windows contain later 6/6 sash, and a secondary recessed entry on the east (street) elevation may also be a later modification.

Outbuildings include a frame, gabled, two-car garage (ca. 1920), a frame 1½-story barn with attached silo-like projection (ca. 1890), and a stone well structure on the south lawn (ca. 1920). All buildings and structures are located close to Hortonville Road, near the intersection of Wood Avenue. The extent of the property being nominated is approximately two acres of partially planted area defined by a picket fence to the south, mature trees to the west, and the roads to the east and north. The balance of the acreage is primarily woodlot.

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

Known as the Hooper House during much of its history, 306 Hortonville Road is one of the dispersed farmsteads that dotted the Swansea landscape in the late 18th century. The house is situated on the primary north-south road connecting period settlement at Gardner's Neck on Mt. Hope Bay to Hortonville and on to the town of Rehoboth.

The use of the property in the late 19th and early 20th centuries reflects a common pattern in Swansea, whereby many of the town's older working farms were given over to use as "gentleman's farms" and summer or weekend residences. The owner of this house after World War I lived in Providence, visiting Swansea on the weekends. This decrease in the number of Swansea's working farms has contributed to the town's primarily residential character.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

ca. 1849 map of Swansea, 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County  
Mrs. Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

51  
JAN 02 1990MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

C	See District Data Sheet
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Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
Swansea

Name of Area (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Hortonville Historic DistrictPresent Use residential,agricultural

General Date or Period \_\_\_\_\_

ca. 1750-1845, ca. 1870-1900General Condition goodAcreage approximately 122 acresRecorded by Preservation Plus/K. BroomerOrganization Swansea Historical CommissionDate March 1988/October 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white) Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see 3 enclosed assessor's maps)

UTM REFERENCE

A 19 317160 4627120

F 19 315750 4626490

B 19 317210 4626970

G 19 315780 4626930

C 19 316630 4626830

H 19 315840 4627000

D 19 316410 4626580

I 19 316210 4627090

E 19 316020 4626610

USGS QUADRANGLE  
SCALESomerset, MA 19851:25000



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Hortonville Historic District is a visually cohesive, linear group of primarily residential and farm buildings located in a rural setting in northern Swansea. These buildings are associated with the area's development from a collection of scattered 18th-century farmsteads into a nucleated village by the late 19th century. In addition to its continued agricultural emphasis, Hortonville achieved local importance as a primary industrial location in Swansea in the 19th century; only the residential construction generated by the industrial development is extant. The rural setting and the range of residential building styles--from Georgian to Colonial Revival--are important character-defining features of the district. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the Hortonville Historic District meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Hortonville Historic District encompasses approximately 122 acres in northern Swansea near the Rehoboth town line. The topography of the area consists of gently rolling terrain, well-suited for farming and cattleraising, principle activities in the district. At the heart of the linear district, acreage on both sides of Locust Street is used for pasturage with some additional land on the north side under cultivation. This agricultural land, which remains open to the north and merges with a wooded area several hundred yards to the south, is a character-defining feature of the district (Photo #6). Cole's River, which flows on a roughly southerly course through town and drains into Mt. Hope Bay, constitutes a portion of the southern boundary of the district. A dam built on the river near the Hortonville Road bridge (Photo #1) powered the mills that operated in the village in the 19th century.

The district consists of 45 buildings, two sites, and two structures; 23 buildings, two sites, and two structures contribute to its architectural and historical significance.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Locust Street, the primary road through Hortonville, was a native Indian path and major transportation route connecting the present Fall River and Taunton areas to Narragansett Bay. Early settlement of the area that is now Hortonville occurred in the mid-18th century. Members of three families--the Hales, Martins, and Eddys--built the first homes at the western end of the historic district, the location of fertile farmland.

Hortonville was originally part of farmland granted to John Haile (Hale) from England in 1709. A housewright by trade, John Hale served Swansea as highway surveyor, and built his house (no longer extant) at the site of 416 Locust Street. At the time of his death in 1718, Hale owned 355 acres in Swansea and 30 acres in adjacent Rehoboth. Five generations later, Daniel Hale (1758-1830), a shoemaker and carpenter, lived and worked the land. His grandson Daniel Hale (1794-1867) built the Greek Revival house set back from the road at 416 Locust Street (ca. 1845-MHC #C25). In 1894, a portion of the farm with street frontage was sold to nephew Daniel Hale (1832-1896), who built the late Italianate house at 410 Locust Street (MHC #C26, Photo #7). Both houses remained in the family and the land was operated as a farm at least until the death of William Hale in 1974. The family cemetery at the southwestern corner of the property (MHC #C809) contains 30 stones ranging in date from 1784 to 1974. Today, the acreage of the original land grant has been substantially reduced; some property to the east has been leased for use by Baker Farm.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Assessor's Records.  
Fall River Registry of Deeds.  
Fall River Herald News, 1925.



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Hortonville H. D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

Contributing buildings are of wood frame construction, generally on fieldstone foundations, and most date to one of two periods of growth at Hortonville: ca. 1750-1845 and ca. 1870-1900. The district includes buildings in the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and late Victorian Italianate styles, with one example each of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. Noncontributing houses and their outbuildings are generally wood frame and compatible with contributing buildings in size and scale. Minimal setback from the street characterizes the district as a whole.

The oldest structure at Hortonville, built 1736, is the Melatiah Martin House at 397 Locust Street (MHC #C27). Located at the western end of the district, this shingle-clad Georgian house is 2 1/2 stories with a five-bay, center-entry facade, and double-pile center-chimney plan. The pedimented door surround with four-pane sidelights is a ca. 1830 addition. Built as a farmer's dwelling, the house is situated on a two-acre lot now distinct from associated farming acreage to the north. The building currently serves as the headquarters of the Swansea Construction Company.

Comprising part of the Eddy/Baker Farm complex to the east are two vernacular Georgian capes, 235 Locust Street (ca. 1750, MHC #C30) and 241 Locust Street (ca. 1747, MHC #C29). Of the two 1 1/2-story houses, #235 is the better preserved, and shows some evidence of updating in the first half of the 19th century. This five-bay, center-entry house has a central brick chimney, wide frieze, and 2/2 wood sash. Later 1 1/2-story gabled wings with cornerboards and Greek Revival-style eave windows on the facade flank the main block. The noncontributing house at #241 may have been built as a half-cape (three-bay facade, end-bay entry), and extended to a three-quarter cape with a western addition constructed at an unknown date. Exterior alterations, particularly the new chimney and paired windows in the eastern end of the facade, have rendered this house noncontributing. Both buildings are part of a large agricultural complex with fields totaling over 175 acres flanking both sides of Locust Street.

Another Georgian house updated in the early or mid-19th century is the Benjamin Martin House at 24 Locust Street (ca. 1757, MHC #C36). Located at the eastern end of the village, the Martin House is a 2 1/2-story, clapboarded, five-bay, center-entry structure with central chimney and double-pile plan. Nineteenth-century details are the paneled corner pilasters, which are repeated in the door surround with full-length sidelights, and 6/6 window sash. Subdivision of the 43-acre Martin House property in the early 19th century accounted for much development at the eastern end of the district at that time.

The district's Federal-style buildings are three houses at or near the eastern end of Locust Street. The Chace House at 11 Maiden Lane (ca. 1810, MHC #C39) is located two-tenths of a mile down a path from Locust Street, and within yards of the Cole's River headwaters. Built into a sharp grade (one story on the facade, one story plus full basement on the rear elevation), the five-bay Federal features a dentil cornice and played window lintels. Back-to-back beehive ovens at the central chimney are still intact within the structure. Upper-story window sash is 12/12; sash in the basement windows is 8/8. South of the house is the Chace Mill site (1806, not surveyed) on the river bank.

At the beginning of Locust Street are two Federal houses dated ca. 1810. The Mason Horton House at 4 Locust Street (MHC #C38, Photo #3) is a 1 1/2-story, three-quarter cape retaining a wide frieze, three-quarter side-lights, molded window surrounds, and 9/9 sash. A dormer was added to the rear elevation in the 1960s. Across the street is the two-story Marvel House, 5 Locust Street (MHC #C37, Photo #2), a late example of the center-chimney house in Swansea. The house displays molded window heads and 6/6 sash.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Hortonville H.D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

A two-story, three-bay ell on the west wall is a ca. 1885 addition.

Three Greek Revival buildings include two capes and the village school. The Robert Sherman House at 1015 Hortonville Road (ca. 1835, MHC #C40) is a gabled, 1 1/2-story, 5-bay cottage with a center entrance and double interior chimneys. An attached summer kitchen--one-story, two bays, with a secondary entrance--is located on the east end of the house. The house has molded window lintels, a wide entablature surround at the entry, and five-pane sidelights. At the opposite end of the district, set back roughly seven-tenths of a mile from the road, is the Daniel Hale House at 416 Locust Street (ca. 1845, MHC #C25). Similar to the Sherman House in detailing and organization of the main block, the Hale House also has a gabled 1 1/2-story, 4-bay wing on the west side, set back from the main block, displaying eave windows on the facade. The district's oldest institutional building is the former Hortonville school, 77 Locust Street (ca. 1838, MHC #C31). A simple 1 1/2-story clapboarded structure with two-bay facade and three-bay side elevations, the schoolhouse is the only extant Greek Revival building in the district oriented gable-end to the street. Paired entries marked by plank hoods on brackets open into a single interior room. The building, the oldest extant schoolhouse in Swansea, currently serves as a club house for the Portuguese American Club League (PACL).

The remainder of Hortonville's extant contributing buildings date primarily to the late 19th century. Among the cluster of buildings at the eastern end of Locust Street are three late Italianate cottages, 39, 45, and 67 Locust Street (ca. 1890; MHC #C34, C35, C32; Photos #4 and 5). Generally, these 1 1/2-story houses have gable roofs with ridge parallel to the street, five-bay facades, and center double-door entries with prominent door hoods on oversized brackets. The house at #39 retains a bracketed cornice and 2/2 sash. The William Hale House at 410 Locust Street (MHC #C26, Photo #7) is a late Victorian Italianate cottage in the gable-end form. Built ca. 1894, the house has a three-bay facade, bracketed cornice, molded window lintels, 2/2 sash, and a one-story bracketed porch on the east elevation. The end-bay double-door entry is marked by a door hood on carved brackets.

One example each of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles survives in the district. The unusual Queen Anne house at 31-33 Locust Street (ca. 1890, MHC #C35) may have been one of the above-mentioned side-gabled Italianate cottages originally; the center entry is now flanked by two-tier polygonal bays topped with gable roofs that project beyond the cornice line of the house. These bays have flared bases and shingle gable infill. The Myron Baker House at 261 Locust Street (ca. 1900, MHC #C28) is a Colonial Revival on the Baker Farm complex. This shingled, 1 1/2-story, cross-gable house of asymmetrical massing has a wide frieze band, shingle gable infill, and a wrap-around porch on three sides with turned posts on a shingled balustrade. A pedimented cross-gable on the porch marks the house's off-center entry.

The Hortonville district contains ten contemporary houses (ca. 1940s to ca. 1989). Typically, these are 1 1/2-story, frame, gabled structures, some ranch houses or modern capes. Concentrated in the eastern half of the district, these houses generally were constructed either on the sites of demolished historic buildings on the north side of Locust Street, or on street-front sections of certain larger lots that appear to have been divided for development. Their presence, which does not compromise the integrity of the district as a whole, does attest to the continuing suburbanization of Swansea's rural landscapes in the second half of the 20th century.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Hortonville H. D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

Hortonville's dominant commercial and agricultural activity is the operation of Baker Farm, located on the north side of Locust Street at the heart of the district. In addition to the three historic farmhouses in the complex—235, 241, and 261 Locust Street and their secondary structures—Baker Farm includes less than one-half dozen contemporary buildings associated with operation of the slaughterhouse and farming business; these are substantially set back from Locust Street and accessible by way of an unimproved road on the property. Those buildings within roughly 100 yards of the road have been included in the District Data Sheet. (See Verbal Boundary Description and Justification)

Historical Significance (continued)

In 1736, Melatiah Martin had his house built at 397 Locust Street (MHC #C27), across the road from the Hale property. The self-sufficient Martin farm included its own tannery. A Martin family cemetery, located west of the house beyond the boundaries of the historic district, is now separated from the house by infill construction. The farm is still owned by a Martin descendent, although the house lot is now distinguished from the balance of the farmland.

East of the Martin and Hale houses is the Eddy-Baker Farm complex, comprising 235, 241, and 261 Locust Street (MHC #C30, C29, C28). Original owners were the Eddy family, among Swansea's early settlers, who worked the farm for nearly 100 years and built two houses on the property ca. 1750 (235 and 241 Locust Street). The complex has been known as Baker Farm since Sarah Anne Eddy married Nathaniel Baker in 1835. The large Colonial Revival house at 261 Locust Street was built ca. 1900 by the father of Ken Baker, the current owner. A principle agricultural property in Hortonville for two centuries, Baker Farm continues to be a major fixture in the historic district.

In contrast to the agricultural activity that dominated the western end of the district, the eastern end near the Cole's River was targeted for industrial development. Benjamin Martin appears to have operated a grist mill in this area in the second half of the 18th century, although no other information about the mill has been located. Martin built his house, 24 Locust Street (ca. 1757, MHC #C36) on a 43-acre lot he owned between the road and the river to the south. Beginning in 1804, the property was divided and sold to various people who took an interest in the milling industry. A small section to the east was purchased by Mason Horton, who built his house, now 4 Locust Street (ca. 1810, MHC #C38, Photo #3). Some of the acreage and water rights to the south were sold to Dexter Wheeler, who in partnership with Oliver Chace opened the Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Company and built a mill on the river in 1806. Chace's mill was located on Maiden Lane, then known as Factory Lane. The house at 11 Maiden Lane (ca. 1810, MHC #C39) is believed to be the only extant structure built by the company, which operated one of the first cotton mills in the country after Samuel Slater's mill in Rhode Island. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1836 and never rebuilt.

Across the road, a second grist mill occupied the Sherman House (1015 Hortonville Road, ca. 1835, MHC #C40) property. House and mill were sold ca. 1880 to Jesse K. Chace, the last person to operate a mill at Hortonville. The mill was dismantled by the turn of the 20th century and removed to Fall River, a more industrialized city than Swansea. The concentration of mills at Hortonville in the 19th century gave rise to the name "Swansea Factory", by which the village was also known.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Hortonville H.D.

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

Historical Significance (continued)

Development of Hortonville accelerated in the 1830s due to the industrial activity there. In that decade, a district school (ca. 1838), Union Chapel (1838), and the first Universalist Society's Liberty Hall were built on the north side of Locust Street near Hortonville Road. Of these, only the school (77 Locust Street, MHC #C31) is extant. A product of the 1838 redistricting of the Swansea public school system, the Hortonville School is the town's oldest extant schoolhouse.

Nathaniel B. Horton (1820-1900) is responsible for the association of his family's name with the village. One of the fourth generation of Hortons to live in New England, he resided on the family farmstead on Hornbine Road in Rehoboth just north of the historic district. Horton purchased his father's homestead and adjoining land in Rehoboth in 1856, settling down to an impressive lifestyle as related in town histories of the period. Horton was a stockholder in many banks and mills in nearby Fall River. He held civic positions in Swansea and represented both Swansea and Rehoboth in the Massachusetts legislature. At Hortonville (Swansea Factory) he built houses for his daughters (including 45 Locust Street, MHC #C33) and was instrumental in the creation of a branch post office at the village, named Hortonville in his honor.

By the last quarter of the 19th century, Hortonville had evolved into a self-sufficient village. The commercial and institutional focus of the village was at the eastern end of Locust Street, where the school, church, and Liberty Hall were clustered. Around the corner, the senior and junior Benanuel Marvels operated a store out of the north wing of their house at 990 Hortonville Road (ca. 1783, MHC #C41). Mr. L. L. Cummings of Hortonville was appointed village post master on January 19, 1885, and he opened a branch post office in his home (no longer extant) immediately west of the schoolhouse. The Baker and Hale families remained prominent village farmers, owning land on both sides of Locust Street. In the last decade of the century, a member of each family built a new farmhouse on their respective properties: the Myron Baker House, 261 Locust Street (ca. 1900, MHC #C28) and the William Hale House, 410 Locust Street (ca. 1894, MHC #C26, Photo #7). Mills were no longer a basis of economic support in the village, having either closed or moved. New residential construction was focused on the north side of Locust Street at the eastern end of the district, where a group of cottages were built ca. 1890, including 31-33 Locust Street (MHC #C35), 39 Locust Street (MHC #C34, Photo #4), and 67 Locust Street (MHC #C32), home of teamster Dexter H. Nicholas.

Development at Hortonville virtually ceased between ca. 1900 and the 1940s. Relocation of civic organizations and societies, and centralization of the town-wide postal delivery and school systems resulted in the demolition of related buildings on the north side of Locust Street. Devoid of the institutional and industrial-related activities that fueled the village's development throughout much of the 19th century, the area reverted to residential and agricultural uses.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Swansea

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Hortonville H. D.

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

Verbal Boundary Description/Justification

The boundaries of the Hortonville Historic District are drawn to include the greatest concentration of intact 18th and 19th-century buildings associated with the growth of the village. The largely linear district extends from Cole's River at Hortonville Road approximately three-quarters of a mile west on Locust Street, and includes house lots and corresponding farm acreage north and south of Locust Street. Boundaries on the north side of the street generally follow rear lot lines, except on large open lots where a line of convenience has been drawn roughly 250 feet from the road. The district's southern border is the Cole's River, the closest natural boundary.

Bibliography and/or References (continued)

Brayton, Alice. Trading in Scrabbletown. Newport, 1952.

Ferguson, Susan G. The Hale Farm in Swansea, Mass. unpublished paper, Brown University, 1976.

Pierce, Helen. "Nathaniel Baker Horton." The Harvester (Swansea, MA), 34 (Sept. 9, 1989)

Swansea Historical Society. The Swansea Stage Coach. Swansea, 1976.

Wright, O. O. History of Swansea, Mass. Town of Swansea, 1917.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

F

137

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 36 Riverview Avenue

Historic Name J. V. Johnson House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1913

Source Swansea Assessor's Records

Style Prairie-influenced

(builder:  
Architect unknown A. H. Leeming & Sons)

Exterior Wall Fabric fieldstone

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1925)  
contributing

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

rear porch enclosed (ca. 1920)

Condition excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre (52,500 sq. ft.)

Setting On road that runs to Lees

River with sizable property and mature  
trees.

Recorded by C. L. Gardner/K. Flynn/Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1978/January 1986/October 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 316740 4620300

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Valerie Talmage SHPO 6/19/90

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The J. V. Johnson House, 36 Riverview Avenue, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is significant on the local level. The house meets

Criterion C as a well-preserved example of Prairie style architecture.

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

A full-blown example of the bungalow house type, this 1½-story dwelling is distinguished by its unique fieldstone walls and tile roof. In materials, the house contrasts sharply with the predominantly wood-clad character of Swansea's residential architecture. The low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, bands of casement dormer windows, and emphasis on the horizontal are evocative of the Prairie style. Other exterior detailing includes exposed rafters, multi-pane awning sash on the first floor, and terracotta panels displaying stylized floral patterns in a Sullivanesque mode.

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

In the early 20th century, Swansea was evolving from a self-sufficient community based on agriculture, boatbuilding, and fishing into a suburban and resort area oriented toward the cities of Fall River (to the east) and Providence (to the west). The Johnson House is located on Gardner's Neck in South Swansea, the target of much suburban development in the years prior to World War I. The house's original owner owned the Cliquot Club Soda Co., while another resident owned the Fall River Knitting Mills.

Alfred H. Leeming, the builder, was a Fall River-based contractor and developer of at least one residential subdivision in that city, the Highland Avenue vicinity (where he resided), in the early 1920s. It is likely that Leeming & Sons played an active role in the residential subdivision of Swansea, although the extent of the firm's involvement with other houses in Swansea has not been determined.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Assessor's Records.  
Swansea Tax Records.  
Bristol County Registry of Deeds.  
City directories.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

8

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 177 Market Street

Historic Name Luther House

Use: Present residential

Original residential/farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1740

Source Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings Stone wall, foundations of barn,  
coop, 2 sheds (all contributing)

Major Alterations (with dates) east ell

(19th cent.), greenhouse addition (ca. 1960)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage approximately 5 acres

Setting House faces south and is oriented

close to street in rural, residential

area of North Swansea. Market Street

(Route 136) moderately trafficked artery.

Recorded by V. Frost/K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 311380 4625890

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

*Valerie Talmage* *2400* *6/19/90*



JAN 2 1990

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Luther House, 177 Market Street, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. As an intact Georgian cape reminiscent of colonial development in Old Swansea, the house meets Criteria C on the local level. The property also includes a stone wall (ca. 1900) and the foundations of a large barn, coop, and two sheds (ca. 1895).

Areas of significance: Agriculture, Architecture

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

The Luther House--a 1½-story, five-bay, center-entry, gambrel cottage--is typical of 18th-century residential construction in Swansea. The shingled Georgian house retains a brick central chimney, gunstock corner posts on the interior, five-light transom over the center entrance, 12/12 window sash, and a narrow shed-roofed dormer centered over the entrance which appears to be original. Two later dormers were added to the rear (north) elevation at an unknown date. Other additions include a one-story gabled ell with secondary entrance and 9/9 sash, and a late 20th-century, one-story greenhouse addition on the west side. The main block and ell were restored beginning in 1966.

The house occupies a clearing close to the street, north and west of which are a stone wall and foundations of at least four buildings. The extent of the property being nominated comprises approximately five acres closest to the street on a lot of roughly 37 acres.

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

A typical example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized Old Swansea in the 18th century, the Luther House is situated on a primarily north-south route through northwestern Swansea, between present Rehoboth, Mass. and Warren, Rhode Island. To the north is the First Baptist Church (1848), the site of a previous building relocated from present Barrington, Rhode Island in 1717. The church's relocation to this section of Swansea provided the impetus for colonial settlement of the area.

The house is noted for its long association with the Luther family, local farmers prominent throughout Swansea's history who were descended from John Luther, one of the proprietors of Taunton. The branch of the family believed to have been associated with this house is that of John's son, Hezekiah. Thomas Patterson Luther (1805-1887), a farmer, owned this house ca. 1850; it is believed that either his grandfather, Nathaniel Luther (b. 1733), or his great-grandfather, Moses Luther (b. 1694) built the structure. While Luther family homesteads were scattered throughout Old Swansea (including present Warren), members of the family were active in the affairs of the First Baptist Church. The Luther family continued to occupy this house until the mid-20th century.

Five acres of thirty-seven have only been nominated because this five acres contains the principle building and remains of outbuildings associated with the property.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.  
Registry of Deeds, Fall River.  
Swansea vital records, Swansea Public Library.  
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 79 Old Warren Road

Historic Name William Luther House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1849

Source deeds, early maps of Swansea

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard facade,  
shingled sides and rear

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1920)

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

rear ell (ca. 1900)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting quiet residential area with

little traffic

UTM REFERENCE 19 315320 4623760

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by V. Frost/K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/April 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).

Indicate north

(see attached map)

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The William Luther House, 79 Old Warren Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. As an intact example of a Greek Revival style cape, the house meets Criterion C. As a farmstead associated first with the locally prominent Luther family, who operated several stores down the road, and next with the Buffington family, known for their contributions to life at Swansea Center, the house meets Criterion A.

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

The Luther House appears to be a late example of the traditional 1½-story, gabled, 5-bay, center-chimney cape constructed in Swansea as early as the mid-18th century. This intact Greek Revival house is distinguished from earlier buildings of the same type by its clapboard facade, shingled side and rear elevations, cornerboards, and 6/6 window sash. The entry retains a vertical board door with no glazing. A rear ell and covered porch on the east side are late 19th/early 20th-century additions.

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

In 1848 William Luther purchased from James Luther a lot of land. A year later Susan Megus bought from William Luther "a certain lot of land with a dwelling thereon." Members of the Luther family maintained scattered farmsteads around Swansea, but were known for their early 19th-century commercial buildings clustered at Luther's Corner, one block west of this house.

The Buffington family obtained the house in 1879. Deacon Stephen Buffington, who lived to be 93, was noted for his 76-year membership in the Christian Church (located northwest of the house at Maple Avenue and the present Route 6). In 1843 and 1844, he had represented Swansea in the Legislature. Throughout his years in the community, he was noted for his famous gardens with their abundance of crops, and his beautiful baskets made by hand. Subsequent residential development of the surroundings has reduced the house lot to its present size. The property passed to son Benjamin and then to George Buffington, both of whom had close ties to the Christian Congregational Church. George operated a blacksmith shop at Luther's Corner. After Seth Eddy built a new store at the southwest corner of the Old Warren Road/Pearse Road intersection, George Buffington's shop was moved ca. 1871 down Old Warren Road closer to the Buffington house.

The Buffingtons retained ownership of the house until 1946.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fall River, Registry of Deeds for Bristol County.  
Buffington family records, Swansea Historical Society.  
1849 map of Swansea, Swansea Public Library.

JAN 02 1990

54

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white). Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see attached map)

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

B	See district data sheet
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Swansea, Mass. MRA

SWANSEA

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Area (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

LUTHER'S CORNER

Present Use \_\_\_\_\_ Residential

General Date or Period 1800-1907

General Condition Good

Acreage 1-1/2 acres

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_ K.  
Preservation Plus/Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988 / October 1988

UTM REFERENCE 19 315050 4623630

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA - R.I.  
SCALE 1:25,000



## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Luther's Corner Historical District represents a well-preserved cluster of 19th century commercial/residential buildings that was once the commercial hub of the town from 1830 to the turn of the 20th century. The district retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship and association significant to the early commercial district that thrived here in the 1800's. This district fulfills criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.**

Luther's Corner Historic District includes the four buildings located on each of the corners of Old Warren Road, Maple Avenue and Pearse Road. This district became the commercial center of the town during the mid to late 19th century because of the "Great Road", (Old Warren Road), which was the main route through the central section of the town, and travelled first by the colonists, and then by the stage and later by the Providence, R.I. and Old Fall River Station railroad. The four contributing structures which make up the Luther's Corner District were all built during the 19th century. It is because this center grew together in a cohesive manner, that the architectural features and details are similar.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.**

The Luther's Corner District was the commercial center of the Town of Swansea, MA. during the 19th century. This particular area formed because of the need of a transportation center during that time. During the early 19th century, when travel was still primarily by horse and stage, the need for rest stops (stage stops), along a well-marked route offering "conveniences" was necessary, as well as found to be profitable to those living near to the area. At the junction of Old Warren Road, Maple Avenue and Pearse Roads, which formed a "turnstile" in the roads, it was logical to make this the stopping place for the stages from Providence, R.I. and Fall River, MA. (east-west), as well as to North Swansea and the Cole River, Mt. Hope Bay (north-south) routes. Because of this, Luther's Corner became the commercial center of the town as well as much of the activity in Swansea Center, occurring in the vicinity of Luther's Corner.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

see continuation sheet

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA, MA

Form No:

see  
DDS

Property Name: Luther's Corner

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

The first structure built at the corners is located on the northeast corner. It is the James Luther Tavern, 159 Old Warren Road (MHC #B19, Photo #2). It is a 2½-story, 5-bay Federal structure built ca. 1800. There is a central offset chimney and a rear ell with a large brick chimney. The window glazing is 6/6. There is a hood over the central door supported by Doric columns, added ca. 1910. This house served as a tavern as well as a residence until remodeled solely as a private home in 1857. The original clapboards have been covered in asbestos shingles; the fieldstone foundation is still intact.

On the northwest corner is the John Brown-Luther House, 2 Maple Avenue (MHC #B21, Photo #2). It is a 2½-story, 5-bay clapboarded structure in the Federal style with a large central brick chimney, built ca. 1811. Facade fenestration is symmetrical. Architectural details include: gable-end eave overhang, a semi-circular fanlight with decorative pilasters in the door surround, and splayed window lintels. The interior contains six fireplaces and two brick beehive ovens.

The Luther Store, 160 Old Warren Road (MHC #B17, Photo #1) was built in 1815-1818 by Mace Luther. It is the only brick structure on the corners (brick veneer on a wood frame). The 2-story, 5-bay Federal has two doors on the facade, in the 2nd and 4th bays. There is an interior chimney at each gable end. The original fixtures of the general store are in place: solid mahogany counter for groceries, drawers which still contain spices, a bar under the staircase, the desk where Mr. Luther kept his accounts, household items, and some Indian artifacts found in Swansea. The back room housed farm implements and musical instruments for sale. A narrow staircase leads to the second floor where undertaking supplies, shoe making and repair implements, a small library, pictures, furniture, and hand-woven spreads are stored. The store operated until 1903, when the last Luther closed its doors. In 1935, at a Town Meeting, it was voted to accept the building from the heirs as a historical monument. In 1942, the store was deeded to the Swansea Historical Society. The store was moved approximately 50 feet back from the corner in 1937 due to road widening.

At the southwest corner is the Seth Wilbur Eddy House and Store, 174 Old Warren Road (MHC #B18), built in 1871. The vernacular building is 2½ stories, 5 bays, with a gable roof. It is clapboarded with a fieldstone foundation. The asymmetrical facade is unremarkable in its architectural details, although a one-story porch with plain posts spans the eastern end. Built as a residence and store, the building housed the Swansea Post Office in 1889. By 1930, the building was remodeled for use solely as a residence.

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## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see  
DDS

Property Name: Luther's Corner

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

Historical Significance (cont'd)

Old Warren Road is a colonial road connecting Swansea to Warren, Rhode Island. During the Federal period (1775-1830), a stage stop and tavern were established where the Warren road met Pearse Road, or the road north from the Cole River. This centrally located crossroads soon became known as Swansea Center and alternately as Luther's Corner, for the Luther family played a major role in the development of the area in general and the intersection in particular. James Luther, a farmer, was also owner of the tavern and stage-stop at 159 Old Warren Road (ca. 1812, MHC #B19). The tavern was considered a "strictly temperance home" and served all the comforts of home. During the same period, James Luther's son-in-law John Brown (1794-1823) built his home at the crossroads (2 Maple Avenue, ca. 1811, MHC #B21) and had his brick store built by cousin Mace Luther diagonally across the street from his house (Luther Store, 160 Old Warren Road, 1815, MHC #B17). At the death of John Brown in 1823, his brother Joseph Gardner became merchant at the store and was willed Brown's home as well. The southwest corner of the intersection had a small wood structure that housed the shoemaking and mending business of Henry Luther until mid-century.

Luther's Corner became an important mercantile area during the Early Industrial period (1830-1870). Luther's Store was a very profitable business venture and plans were made for constructing a dry goods store on the site of Henry Luther's shoe repair shop, which had been dismantled when Henry left Swansea in pursuit of other business ventures. Seth Wilbur Eddy built his meat and dry goods store and residence on the site ca. 1871 (174 Old Warren Road, MHC #B18). By then, James Luther, owner of the tavern and stage stop, had already converted his building back into a private residence. In light of the increasing popularity of traveling on the Fall River, Warren, and Providence Railroad (1866) south of the village, there was less of a need for a stage stop at the Center. A bandstand set on a green occupied the center of Luther's Corner, where it was customary for the Swansea Brass Band to give concerts on summer evenings. The former green at the center of the crossroads was removed in 1901 to make way for the "Snake Line" electric trolley cars running between Fall River, Mass. and Providence, Rhode Island.

In 1889, the Swansea Center Post Office was housed in Eddy's store, and Seth Eddy served as postmaster until the branch office closed in 1907. John Baker Eddy, his son, operated a watch and clock repair shop in the ell of the store in the last decades of the 19th century. John, a very successful jeweler, was also an agent for Briggs and Jewett Pianos. In these years, the Luther's Corner community consisted primarily of farmers. Interest in agriculture led to the organization of the Swansea Agricultural Library Association, which established and maintained its own agricultural library in Luther's Store. The organization disbanded in 1902 and donated its books to the Swansea Free Public Library.

The buildings at Luther's Corner recall the intersection's importance as a thriving commercial center in the 19th century. Luther's Store closed in 1903 and Eddy Store closed following the death of Seth Eddy in 1916. The former was conveyed to the Swansea Historical Society in 1942, and the latter remodeled into a private residence. Luther's Store was listed in the National Register in 1978. Today, the intersection is dominated by automobile traffic between U. S. Route 6 to the north and State Route 103 to the south. The buildings at the intersection are in a good state of preservation and are well maintained, their owners sympathetic of the area's history.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDS

Property Name: Luther's Corner

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

Bibliography and/or References (cont'd)

Swansea Town Hall, assessor's records.

Registry of Deeds, Bristol County, Fall River, MA.

Fall River Herald News, Jan. 1899.

Fall River Herald News, Sept. 24, 1937.

Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967, brochure.

Swansea Stagecoach: A Local History. Swansea Historical Society, 1976.

The Luther Store, Swansea Historical Society brochure.

Luther Family Genealogy (at Swansea Public Library).

Luther, Leslie. The Luther Family in America: Descendants of Capt. J. Luther. Moravia, New York, 1976.

Wright, O. O. History of Swansea, Mass. Town of Swansea, 1917.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundaries of the Luther's Corner historic district are drawn to include the properties at each of the four corners created by the intersection of Old Warren Road, Maple Avenue, and Pearse Road. The district includes the entire lot for each of the four properties. The district is distinguished from surrounding residential construction which dates primarily to the mid-20th century and lacks the visual unity necessary to convey the character of the larger historic village.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



JAN 02 1990

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

A

163

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 5 Mason Street

Historic Name William P. Mason House

Use: Present residence

Original hotel, store, post office

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1860

Source maps of Swansea and Bristol County

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage and shed (ca. 1930)  
(both noncontributing)

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

none

Condition fair

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated on northeast corner of

Old Providence Road facing Mason Street

in a rural, residential area of north-

western Swansea known as Barneyville

Recorded by Kay Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 311050 4626810

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1970

SCALE 1:24000

*Valeri Tange shps 6/19/90*

JAN 2 1990

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The William Mason House, an intact vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style, was built in conjunction with the growth of the village at Barneyville to the west in the third quarter of the 19th century. The house served as a hotel and housed other services associated with the village in the late 19th century. The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

This 1½-story, clapboarded, side-gabled dwelling illustrates the incorporation of Gothic Revival style features into the standard Swansea three-quarter cottage form. The entry on the asymmetrical, four-bay facade is marked by an off-center cross gable in the third bay. Shielding the entry is a pitched door hood on brackets with a decorative truss. Other distinguishing features include overhanging eaves, bracketed pent hoods over first floor windows, double windows on the side elevations, and 2/2 sash. A gabled 1½-story rear ell has a three-bay porch with turned posts and spindle frieze and balustrade. Few intact examples of the Gothic Revival survive in Swansea, a town dominated by the Greek Revival and Italianate vernacular forms of the third quarter of the 19th century.

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

Located on Old Providence Road, a segment of the colonial route connecting Swansea to Providence, Rhode Island, the Mason House was built on the site of a stagecoach tavern, known as Graham's tavern as late as ca. 1850. During the second half of the 19th century, the present structure served the village of Barneyville in several capacities. William P. Mason operated both a hotel and store in this building in the early 1870s. In 1872, Mason succeeded Mason Barney, Jr. as postmaster of Barneyville, and by 1895 the village's branch post office had moved from Barneyville Road to this house. The post office had been established in the 1830s in response to rapid growth in this north-western section of Swansea. The house likely reverted to residential use in the early 20th century, following the demise of jewelry manufacturing--the village's last active industry--and the folding of the street railway system that had traversed Swansea in the present Route 6 corridor about 25 yards east of this house.

The Mason House has been excluded from the Barneyville Historic District, located one-quarter to one-half mile to the west, due to the amount of contemporary infill construction between the house and the district's eastern boundary.

Areas of Significance - Architecture, Transportation, Commerce, Government

Period of Significance - C. 1860 (date of Construction) - C. 1900 (Decline of jewelry industry)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wright, O.O., History of Swansea, pp.89-90 (post offices), pp.180-181 (Mason family)  
ca. 1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County  
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

78 AREA

FORM NO.

A

6

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 61 Old Providence Road

Historic Name Norton House

Use: Present Residence, antique shop

Original Farmhouse

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1779

Source paid research

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingles

Outbuildings modern garage

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Open lot at the corner of two

secondary access roads to/from

U. S. Route 6 to the east.

Recorded by H. Pierce/K. Flynn/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/March 1986/October 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 310990 4626800

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Norton House, 61 Old Providence Road, is an intact Georgian style house built in conjunction with the growth of the village at Barneyville to the west beginning in the second half of the 18th century. The house is further associated with Barneyville as the residence of Benjamin F. Norton, part-owner of a jewelry-manufacturing concern in the village in the early 20th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, 61 Old Providence Road meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

This 2½-story, side-gabled, vernacular Georgian house is a five-bay, center-entry structure with central chimney and double-pile plan. Windows have shallow surrounds and contain 12/12 sash. The door surround, perhaps a Federal period addition, consists of a blind elliptical fan over a four-pane transom and three-quarter sidelights. The house at 61 Old Providence Road is of the traditional form in Swansea; the five-bay, center-entry, central chimney house type prevailed well into the Federal period, although later houses generally exhibited an end-gable overhang not seen here.

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

Probably built by a member of the Barney family, which had settled the area one-quarter mile west of the house in the third quarter of the 18th century, 61 Old Providence Road is one of the earliest intact houses in this northern section of Swansea. The house is located on a segment of a colonial road connecting Swansea to Providence, Rhode Island. Activity associated with the Barney family and particularly the family's shipyard focused on the Palmer (Warren) River to the west. With the closing of the shipyard in 1861, Barneyville became a local center for jewelry manufacture with the establishment of D. R. Child & Co. After several transfers, the business was purchased in 1911 by Benjamin F. Norton and J. A. Wheeler, who changed the name to the North Swansea Manufacturing Co. Norton resided in this house. The company flourished until the early 1920s when the Providence & Fall River Street Railway, which had brought employees to the factory, went out of business. The Norton house fell into disrepair until it was purchased and restored by the Grenon family in 1966.

The Norton house has been excluded from the Barneyville Historic District, located one-quarter to one-half mile to the west, due to the amount of contemporary infill construction between the house and the district's eastern boundary.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Town Reports.  
Notes from the Grenon family.  
1849 map of Swansea, Swansea Public Library.  
1871 and 1895 Bristol County atlases.



JAN 02 1990

9

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 282 Market Street

Historic Name Short's Tavern

Use: Present 2-family residence

Original farmhouse, then tavern

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1742

Source Registry of Deeds, Fall River

Style Georgian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood siding

Outbuildings stone barn (now noncontrib.  
building on separate lot)

Major Alterations (with dates) rear exit from 2nd floor (ca. 1950?)

Condition stable

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated close to corner in

rural, primarily residential area of

North Swansea. Market Street (Route 136)

moderately trafficked artery.

Recorded by V. Frost/K. Flynn/K. Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1979/April 1986/November 1989

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

UTM REFERENCE 19 311360 4625600

USGS QUADRANGLE East Providence, RI-MA 1971/1979

SCALE 1:24000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Short's Tavern, 282 Market Street, is an intact Georgian three-quarter house significant as an example of a typical 18th-century Swansea farmstead, and for its operation as a tavern in the mid-19th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, Short's Tavern meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

A gabled, 2½-story, three-quarter house with central chimney and double-pile plan, Short's Tavern is a relatively uncommon example of Georgian design in Swansea, where most survivors of the period are five-bay, center-entry houses. The building displays minimal ornamental detailing. The main entry in the third bay has a multi-pane transom and door surround with pilasters and pediment. First floor windows, articulated with molded heads, contain replacement 2/2 sash, and second-story windows with plain surrounds retain 12/8 sash. A rear exit on the second story probably dates to the mid-20th century when the building was converted for two-family use.

South of the house is a stone barn, perhaps mid-19th century, which has been insensitively remodeled into a residence. The barn now occupies a separate lot and is no longer a part of this property.

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

In 1685, John Therber deeded a parcel of land to his son, Thomas Therber. Charity, daughter of Thomas, married Thomas Whalley. In 1742, to settle the estate of Thomas Therber, Whalley sold the farmhouse, outbuildings, and land. A typical example of the dispersed farmsteads that characterized much of Swansea in the 18th century, the house faces west on a primary north-south route through Old Swansea, running between the present towns of Rehoboth, Mass. and Warren, Rhode Island. A short distance to the north on Market Street (also known as Baptist Street) was the First Baptist Church. The church's relocation from the present Barrington, Rhode Island to its present site in 1717 precipitated colonial settlement of northwestern Swansea.

James Short purchased the farmstead, then comprising 40 acres, in 1851. His decision to operate a tavern was undoubtedly prompted by the house's location on a county highway leading to Providence, Rhode Island. This section of Swansea, known as North Swansea, was a flourishing community in the mid-19th century, due in large part to the growth of the shipyard on the Palmer River west of the tavern and the corresponding development of a village at Barneyville in the shipyard vicinity.

The nominated portion of the present property comprises less than one acre at the corner of Market Street and Stoney Hill Road (see assessor's map). A row of mature trees behind (east of) the house separates the house site from adjacent fields, some of which are under cultivation.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea and Bristol County maps and atlases.  
Swansea Historical Society.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 1074 Sharps Lot Road

Historic Name Simcock House

Use: Present residence/farmstead

Original residence/farmstead

#### DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1765

Source visual analysis;  
oral tradition

Style Georgian vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1890),

well house (ca. 1890), altered milk house

Major Alterations (with dates)

rear ell (early 19th century)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

less than one acre (nominated);

Acreage approximately 63 acres total

Setting Rural setting in northeastern

Swansea; market gardening currently

in operation on property

UTM REFERENCE 19 319490 4627450

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1986/November 1989



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Simcock House, 1074 Sharps Lot Road, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The house meets Criterion C as a unique form of vernacular Georgian house in Swansea.

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

This asymmetrical, three-bay, center-entry house is unusual in Swansea. The house's more typical features include the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story height, center chimney, and three-room plan. The facade consists of an entry located right of center and flanked by irregularly spaced windows. Second-story windows are similarly arranged, although the window over the entry is narrower than the others. All windows retain plain surrounds topped with drip boards and contain 2/2 sash. Other finishing details include a narrow frieze and rakeboards. The entry surround, trimmed with a simple molding, contains a five-light transom and a six-panel door from the Federal period. On the west side (rear) is a two-story gabled ell. There are six fireplaces on the interior.

Outbuildings are frame and include a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story barn and one-story well house (both ca. 1890) and an altered milk house.

(see continuation sheet)

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

Little is known about the history of this farmhouse before the second half of the 19th century, when the farm was owned by the Simcock family. The Simcocks came to the United States from England in the mid-19th century to work in the textile mills in nearby Fall River. It appears that members of the family settled in Swansea at that time. George A. Simcock owned this house and James B. Simcock owned a house on adjacent property to the south by 1895. The farm was oriented toward dairying and market gardening, two important aspects of Swansea's economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and market gardening continues on the property today.

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Comprising a large, irregularly shaped lot of approximately 63 acres, 1074 Sharps Lot Road consists of a building cluster at the property's narrow frontage along the road with farm acreage extending west. The property is nominated for its architectural significance, and therefore is confined to the building cluster on less than one acre adjacent to Sharps Lot Road and excludes the farm acreage.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea, 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County, Swansea Public Library.  
Mrs. Cora Silvia (40-year owner of house), interview, 5/20/86.  
Mrs. Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.  
Mass. Hist. Comm. State Survey Team. Historic and Archaeological Resources in SE Mass., 1982  
Swansea Town Report and Inventory, 1978/1986, Mass. Hist. Commission.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

97

Property Name: 1074 Sharps Lot Road

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

The architectural evolution of this house has not been definitively determined. Although three-bay houses are an anomaly, both five-bay houses and three-quarter (four-bay) cottages from the Colonial (to 1775) and Federal (1775-1830) periods are extant in Swansea. The Simcock House approximates the center-chimney, center-entry form with three major rooms, the most commonly employed house plan in southeastern Massachusetts during the Colonial period. [MHC, 134] However, these houses typically had five-bay facades. A detailed structural investigation could address the possibility that the Simcock House was originally a two-bay half-house with end chimney, extended one bay to the south later in the 18th century. Intact examples of the half-house (normally three-bays) are comparatively rare, most such houses having been enlarged or demolished for more substantial dwellings. [MHC, 135]

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 361 Pearse Road

Historic Name "Smuggler's House"

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1800

Source secondary documentation to 1820

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings milk house (mid-19th cent.),  
garage (early 20th cent.)

Major Alterations (with dates) east (kitchen) wing and dormers (1938)

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting House has deep setback from  
road and is reached via a dirt drive;  
surrounding residential area largely  
early 20th century

UTM REFERENCE 19 315060 4622510

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by M.S.Gendron/K. Flynn/K. Broome

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date 1978/February 1986/November 1989

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Smuggler's House, 361 Pearse Road, is an intact Federal period farmhouse associated with Swansea's maritime activity in the 19th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, the house meets Criteria A and C on the local level.

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

Typical of the late 18th/early 19th-century farmhouses scattered throughout Swansea, 361 Pearse Road is a 1½-story, five-bay, gabled dwelling with a double-pile plan and single brick chimney set slightly right of center. Pilasters frame the center entry, which consists of a six-panel door topped with a five-pane transom. Cornerboards and a molded cornice finish the clapboarded exterior. Windows contain 12/12 sash. The house fell into disrepair in the early 20th century, and additions made during a 1938 restoration and remodeling project include the two gabled dormers with 6/6 sash on the facade, and the one-story, two-bay kitchen wing with secondary entrance in the rear pile on the east elevation. The kitchen wing does not visually detract from the appearance of the historic main block.

North of the house are a frame garage (early 20th cent.) and a milk house (mid-19th cent.), a one-story, gabled and shingled building used by recent owners as a detached outdoor livingroom.

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

The Smuggler's House is so-called for its associations with the sea-faring aspect of Swansea life and its reported use as a hideaway for goods such as tea that were smuggled into Swansea during the War of 1812. Pearse Road connects the house to the old Pearse's Wharf on the Cole's River to the south. William and Anna Gardner owned the house--originally part of a 50-acre farm--in 1820. Capt. Gardner was master of a Somerset-based cargo ship. Another early resident of the house was Aaron H. Wood, who went to sea as a young boy in 1854. Wood later became captain of the merchant ship, "Monarch of the Sea."

Much of the surrounding area in this section of Swansea (known as Touisset) was subdivided for suburban construction beginning at the turn of the 20th century.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds, Fall River. Bk. 22, p.563.

Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967.

Maps of Swansea: ca. 1849, 1871, 1895. Swansea Public Library.

Assessors records, Swansea Town Hall.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

55  
JAN 02 1990

AREA

F

FORM NO.

138

- Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address Gardner's Neck Road

Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_

South Swansea Union Church

Use: Present religious

Original religious

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1916

Source Church records

Style Shingle

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings parish house (ca. 1960s)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage less than one acre

Setting suburban houses on fairly

regular rectangular lots

UTM REFERENCE 19 316880 4621270

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-RI 1967/1979

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by Kay Flynn/K. K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/October 1989



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The South Swansea Union Church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is significant on the local level. The church meets Criterion A as a product of the rapidly expanding suburban population on Gardner's Neck in the early 20th century, and Criterion C as a well-preserved ecclesiastical structure in the Shingle Style. For its architectural significance in Swansea, the church also meets Criteria Consideration A.

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

South Swansea Union Church is architecturally significant as the best example of a Shingle Style church in Swansea. One and one-half stories on a raised rubblestone foundation, the church is a gabled rectangular structure with characteristic wood shingle cladding. A prominent facade cross-gable includes four lancet windows on the first floor and a wheel window above. Similar arrangements of lancet and wheel windows grace the end-gable elevations of the main block. The offset entrance is marked by a square tower rising to a belvedere with tent roof. Other architectural features includes overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and drip moulds over windows and doors.

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

The formation of the South Swansea Union Church is rooted in the organization of the South Swansea Sunday School about 1910. In the early decades of the 20th century the population of Gardner's Neck (South Swansea) rapidly increased, as the formerly rural area was transformed by suburban development. The Sunday school provided for area children of varied circumstances who were unable to attend the other Sunday schools of the town. School membership swelled from 16 to 96 children in just one year, and meeting places included private homes and even a tent at Ocean Grove. In October 1914 the school was incorporated with the objective of buying land and building a chapel. Meanwhile, the Ladies Aid Society was formed November 17, 1914 to assist in running the Sunday school.

Sunday evening services began in private homes on the Neck in August 1915. In November of that year, the South Swansea Sunday School Corporation purchased land from Edwin Gardner for the chapel. The building committee consisted of members of the Sunday school corporation: Charles A. Chace, Edward Goss, Mr. and Mrs. Chester R. Gardner, and Mrs. Sidney K. Crittenden. The cornerstone for the church was laid May 6, 1916 and the building was dedicated the following September.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

50th Anniversary of the South Swansea Church, 1914-1964, booklet printed by the Church.  
Pierce, Helen, ed. Swansea Tercentenary 1667-1967. Swansea, MA, 1967.  
Wright, Otis. History of Swansea 1667-1917. Swansea, MA, 1917.

JAN 02 1990

D	See District Data Sheet
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Name of Area (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Swansea Village Historic District

Present Use residential, institutional

General Date or Period \_\_\_\_\_

ca. 1750-ca. 1939

General Condition good

Acreage approximately 29 acres

Recorded by Preservation Plus/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date March 1988/October 1989

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white) Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(see attached maps)

UTM REFERENCE	A 19 318160 4624040	F 19 317760 4623930
	B 19 318180 4623670	G 19 317370 4623970
	C 19 317840 4623660	H 19 317410 4624110
	D 19 317820 4623430	I 19 317720 4624120
	E 19 317770 4623580	
USGS QUADRANGLE	Fall River, MA - RI 1967/1979	
SCALE	1:25000	

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Swansea Village Historic District is a closely settled cohesive grouping of primarily residential and institutional buildings reflecting the town's development from the late 18th century to ca. 1939. The village displays vernacular and high-style residences in a range of architectural styles, as well as several architect-designed institutional buildings of town-wide significance. Swansea Village retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Encompassing approximately 29 acres in east-central Swansea, Swansea Village is a largely linear district of primarily residential and institutional structures ranged along Main Street. Radial streets include Ledge and Elm Streets to the south, Stevens Road (a continuation of Main Street) to the east, and Gardner's Neck Road to the west. In addition to residential and institutional buildings, there is an industrial complex, now used for storage, on Lewin Brook, and a former hotel, now a residence, on Stevens Road.

There are 95 buildings, three sites, six structures and one object in the district; 72 buildings, three sites, and six structures are contributing. Noncontributing resources, primarily secondary structures such as modern garages, post-date the period of significance but generally are compatible with the district's contributing resources in scale and materials. Most contributing resources were erected between ca. 1790 and ca. 1910, with a majority constructed in the late 19th century. Residential buildings, generally

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

In the decades following the organization of the town of Swansea in 1667, certain prominent families amassed most of the land in what are now the five main villages in the town: the Gardners in South Swansea, the Barneys in Barneyville, the Luthers at Luther's Corner, the Hales in Hortonville, and the Eddys in Swansea Village. Although each village played an important role in the town's history, Swansea Village emerged in the late 19th century as the residential and institutional focus for the community.

Zachariah Eddy was the patriarch who owned most of what is now considered Swansea Village. He set aside a burial ground at the foot of Ledge Road (Eddy Burial Ground, MHC #D818) which served as a family ground from ca. 1687 to 1838. Ebenezer, one of the Eddy sons, sold his hundred-acre farm to Jonathan Hill in 1720. The Hill House at 1 Main Street (ca. 1750, MHC #D65, Photo #1) is extant. Also documenting the area's early development is the Old Burial Ground (MHC #D815) behind Town Hall on Main Street, where the earliest stone dates to February 1737/1738. Following the Revolutionary War and the passing of a local smallpox epidemic, Hill Farm was broken up, and several houses were constructed close together on what is now Main Street (Photos #1 and 7). These houses, built between ca. 1790 and 1800, include the Northam House at 27 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D60), the Mason House at 21 Main Street (ca. 1800, MHC #D62), the Nottingham House at 160 Elm Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D91), the Chase/Mason House at 15 Main Street (ca. 1795, MHC #D63) and 9 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D64). Less closely settled development

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.  
Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department, architects file.  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Swansea Inventory, 1977, 1986.



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

SWANSEA

Form No:

see DDs

Property Name: Swansea Village H.D.

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

Architectural Significance (continued)

one or two stories and of frame construction, are largely vernacular interpretations of the Georgian, Federal, and Italianate styles. Exceptions include the high-style Italianate Stevens Mansion on Main Street and a limited number of vernacular Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman houses. At the center of the village are three institutional buildings of stone, architect-designed in revival styles and built between 1889 and 1900. Two 20th-century brick schools dominating the western end of the village are Georgian Revival in style. A late 19th-century brick and frame industrial complex on Lewin Brook is utilitarian in design.

Most of the village's 18th- and early 19th-century houses are clustered at the eastern end near the intersection of Elm Street and Main Street/ Stevens Road (Photo #1). These vernacular Georgian and Federal houses are generally 2-1/2 stories with double-pile plans, gable roofs, and brick interior chimneys. Earliest of these is the Hill House at 1 Main Street (ca. 1750, MHC #D65), a Georgian house with five-bay, center-entry facade and massive central chimney. The gabled entry porch and central door were updated in the Federal period, and the 6/6 window sash may have been installed at that time. The Northam House at 27 Main Street (ca. 1794, MHC #D60, Photo #7) is a Georgian half-house with a three-bay facade, end-bay entry, and interior chimney behind the opposite end bay. Other Georgian residences have been remodelled: 9 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D64, Photo #1), converted to a Colonial Revival house with the addition of a gambrel roof and columned porch, and 21 Main Street (ca. 1800, MHC #D62, Photos #1 and 7), now an Italianate structure with a bracketed side bay, long first floor windows, and a flat-roofed, columned porch.

Of the village's Federal style dwellings, both 2 1/2-story houses and 1 1/2-story capes survive, most with five-bay, center-entry facades and paired interior end chimneys. Good examples of the 2 1/2-story house are the Mason House at 15 Main Street (ca. 1795, MHC #D63, Photo #1), a shingle-clad house with corner boards, splayed window lintels, and pedimented door surround, and the Winslow House at 59 Main Street (ca. 1820, MHC #D58, Photo #4), a well-preserved example of the style with full-length sidelights and a segmental arch pediment over the entry. A prominent full cape in the Federal style is the Hull House at 93 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D52, Photo #6). Built into an incline on the north side of Main Street, the Hull House incorporates a five-bay brick basement with center entry on the south elevation (facade). An elevated full-width porch with side entry provides access to the main floor of the house above street level. The house was recently restored.

There are few examples of the Greek or Gothic Revival styles in Swansea Village, likely the result of little new development in the second quarter of the 19th century. The Greek Revival cottage at 117 Elm Street (ca. 1849, MHC #D86) is a 1 1/2-story house with a 3-bay end-gable facade, side-hall plan, wide frieze and cornerboards, and entablature door surround. The first Christ Church (1847, demolished ca. 1899) on Main Street was a gabled, center-entry, Gothic Revival building with board and batten siding. Surviving vernacular Gothic Revival buildings are two cottages, 64 Main Street (ca. 1850, MHC #D57) and 72 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D56). These 1 1/2-story buildings have five-bay facades and center cross-gables containing single round-arched windows. The front doors have different detailing: a bracketed door hood and no sidelights at #64, and a flat entablature and three-quarter sidelights at #72.

Atypical in Swansea Village due to the extent of its architectural elaboration is the high-style Stevens Mansion (MHC #D61, Photo #2) at 24 Main Street, built in 1855. The main house and other period buildings

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Architectural Significance (continued)

on the property--a carriage house and office (ca. 1860)--are well articulated with Italianate detail. The main house, a three-story, hip roof structure with a wrap-around porch and semi-octagonal three-story rear bay, is reportedly a replica of a South Carolina mansion. Detailing includes bracketed eaves, long first floor windows, double round-arched windows at the third story, a square cupola at the roof ridge, and elaborate cut-out porch balustrade. At the roof ridge of the one-story office is a bird house, a copy of the main house in miniature. Other buildings on the property include the two-story frame carriage house (ca. 1860) articulated by a central gabled pavilion and corner quoins, and a one-story building that formerly contained bowling lanes (ca. 1900). This corner site, the most spacious residential property in Swansea Village, has served as a school for boys for nearly fifty years. Three frame Colonial Revival dormitories with gambrel roofs, built ca. 1938, are set back from both Main and Elm Streets.

Completion of the Stevens Mansion precipitated construction in the village of other Italianate structures, though considerably less ambitious in scale and detailing. Four cottages of ca. 1860 were built by the Stevens family to house some of the many families who worked on the Stevens farm. Three, 86 Main Street (MHC #D54), 92 Main Street (MHC #D53), and 96 Main Street (MHC #D51), are similar 1 1/2-story, three-bay, side-entry dwellings with gable end to the street. Their common detailing includes overhanging eaves, thin cornerboards, molded window heads, and entablature door surrounds. Full-length front windows on the first floor contain 6/9 sash. Another house built by the Stevens family for employees is 745 Stevens Road (ca. 1860, MHC #D70). The house's main entry was relocated to a side elevation during a 1940s remodeling, although the south side (facade) retains Italianate brackets at the cornice. A late example of the Italianate style is the Henry Wood House at 80 Main Street (1880, MHC #D55, Photo #3). This two-story cross-gable dwelling has a three-bay facade and one-story, wrap-around porch with Doric posts, cutout balustrade, and bracketed cornice.

One of the only mansard roof dwellings in Swansea and the only one in Swansea Village is 52 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D59). This 1 1/2-story cottage has a five-bay, center-entry facade, three gabled dormers, a bracketed cornice, and a double-door entry with round-arched lights. A detached two-car garage (ca. 1890) also has a mansard roof.

Swansea Village retains little evidence of historic commercial activity. The long-time commercial focus at Gray's Corner is now dominated by residences. Near the corner, the Case Hotel was constructed ca. 1870 on the site of Gray's Inn and Coach Stop (1803, burned). The hotel, now 789 Stevens Road (MHC #D69), was a substantial Italianate structure with gable end to the street and a full-width front porch. In 1900 the building was turned 90 degrees; today a five-bay, center-entry facade faces the street, behind a white picket fence capped with urn finials at the entrances. The facade retains the bracketed cornice. A two-story brick ell on the rear of the building and a one-bay gabled entry porch on the facade were added in 1938-1939.

Three stone institutional buildings clustered on the north side of Main Street are the product of the philanthropic efforts of the Stevens family. Town Hall (1891, MHC #D67, Photos #3 and 4), designed by J. Merrill Brown of Boston, is the only Romanesque Revival building in Swansea. J. J. Highlands of Fall River was the builder for the field stone building trimmed with Longmeadow brownstone; Angus McDonald of Boston executed the interior carpentry. The one-story building is asymmetrical in massing with a multi-hipped roof, round-arched entry portal, and off-center bell- and clock-tower on the facade. Town Hall originally housed a town meeting hall, the library, and a selectmen's room.

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Architectural Significance (continued)

East of Town Hall is Christ Church (MHC #D68, Photo #5), the second edifice for the Protestant Episcopal church at Swansea Village. The cornerstone for the new building, constructed on the site of an earlier Gothic Revival building, was laid August 27, 1899; the church was consecrated June 6, 1900. Designed by the renowned ecclesiastical architect Henry Vaughan of Boston, Christ Church is built of rough-cut stone laid in regular courses. Its crenelated west tower, conical stair tower, buttressed gabled end wall, and pointed arch window and door surrounds impart a medieval English flavor to the village.

One of the buildings between Town Hall and Christ Church is the Frank Stevens Library (1900, MHC #D66, Photos #3 and 4), also designed by Henry Vaughan. Stylistically, the library draws on Elizabethan precedent, which the architect believed would harmonize best with the Romanesque Town Hall and the Gothic vernacular Christ Church. [Morgan] Executed in granite with trim of red Potsdam sandstone, the library is 1-1/2 stories with a side-gabled slate roof, wood octagonal cupola, and asymmetrical facade incorporating three cross-gable pavilions. Mullioned windows in round-arched surrounds and stone coped gables and finials complete the design.

The only Shingle Style building in the village is the Dorothy Brown Lodge at 98 Ledge Road (MHC #D75). Built in 1899 as a lodge for the local order of Odd Fellows, the gabled, 1 1/2-story building of rectangular massing has continuous shingle cladding and a three-bay, center-entry facade. The lodge features a full-width front porch marked by gabled openings at the end bays, each gable containing a single round-arched louvered window.

Most of Swansea Village's contributing 20th-century buildings are Colonial Revival residences. Some are older buildings remodelled in the early 20th century, such as the old Case Hotel at 789 Stevens Road (see above) and the former Case Hall at 757 Stevens Road (MHC #D71). A 2 1/2-story, side-gabled structure built ca. 1870 as an assembly hall, Case Hall was moved from the hotel property to its present location and converted to a house in 1905. Colonial Revival elements added at that time include pedimented dormers, a semi-circular columned porch on the 5-bay center-entry facade, and Palladian windows in the gable ends. The only four-square house in the village is the Dr. Hilton House at 109 Main Street (ca. 1905, MHC #D50), with a wrap-around porch of Doric columns. Shingled Colonial Revival houses with 3-bay facades oriented gambrel end to the street include 147 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D89) and 155 and 157 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D90); each of these houses has a full-width front porch. A later example of the Colonial Revival is the Dutch Colonial at 127 Elm Street (ca. 1920, MHC #D88), with a side-gambrel shape and a full-width shed dormer.

A vernacular bungalow is the Martin House at 108 Ledge Road (1908, MHC #D74). A unique building, this bungalow with jerkin-head roof is constructed of cement blocks. The blocks, made by a local stone mason, were reportedly first used in the area in the construction of this house. At 90 Elm Street (ca. 1915, MHC #D82) is a well-preserved center-entry bungalow. Characteristic Craftsman-style detailing includes exposed rafters, an oversized gabled dormer, and integral porch with square posts on a shingled balustrade.

Major 20th-century construction in the village includes two Georgian Revival school buildings of brick. The tetrastyle portico and brick wings of the Frank Stevens School at 1 Gardner's Neck Road (1908, MHC #D45) provide a strong visual anchor at the western end of Main Street. Designed by Henry Vaughan, this school was the third Stevens-funded building constructed in Swansea Village. Nearby on Main Street

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Architectural Significance (continued)

is the village's largest building, the Joseph Case High School (1927, MHC #D46), designed by James Ritchie. Originally Swansea's first high school and now a junior high, the 2 1/2-story school is an asymmetrical, hipped roof structure with a square cupola, gabled end pavilions, corner quoins, and a modillion cornice. The double-door center entry has a stone entablature surround and six-pane transom. A two-story brick wing was added to the east side of the building in the 1950s.

The single industrial building in Swansea Village, the Swan Finishing Co. on Ledge Road (ca. 1889, MHC #D72), is a brick two-story building of utilitarian design with a low-pitched gable roof. A brick chimney and some 6/6 window sash are intact. The building was expanded with frame additions in the early 20th century, and is now used for storage.

Swansea Village includes three contributing cemeteries. The oldest of these is the Eddy Burial Ground (MHC #D818) east of Ledge Road. An Eddy family burial place, the ground contains 60 stones ranging from 1687 to 1838. A bronze tablet was erected in 1948 by the Eddy Family Association in honor of Zachariah Eddy (1639-1718), one of the purchasers of Swansea. The cemetery behind Town Hall is also known as the Old Burial Ground (MHC #D815). This cemetery contains 90 stones ranging in date from February 1737/8 to 1932. Finally, Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814) was established with the construction of the first Christ Church in 1847. A stone gateway in the Gothic Revival style has three pointed-arch bays and finials surmounted on corner posts. Burials in the cemetery, ranging from the 1840s to the present, include the Stevens family crypt.

Historical Significance (continued)

also occurred beyond the intersection, with the construction of capes such as 92 Main Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D52, Photo #6) and 107 Elm Street (ca. 1790, MHC #D84).

The intersection of Elm Street, Main Street, and Stevens Road became the developing village's commercial as well as residential focus. In 1815, Israel Brayton built his house on Elm Street and his store at the corner of Main and Elm (neither are extant). Having established a center for trade in the village, Brayton

gathered the products of the countryside and shipped them far and wide, by cart to Boston and Albany, by ship to the southern states. He traded shoes from the village shoemakers, cotton cloth woven in the homes from yarn spun at the Swansea Union Cotton Manufacturing Co. in the Village, and the Swansea Cotton Manufacturing Co. in what is now Hortonville, for rum and molasses, china, spices and countless wares not available at home. The mill in the Village was converted [later in the century] to the manufacture of paper, and ladies began sewing straw bonnets at home, so two new products were added for trade. Mr. Brayton used the name Scrabbletown on his correspondence. Perhaps it had been used before that time and it certainly persisted long afterwards, although no one knows the origin. [Swansea Tercentenary]

In 1832, Israel Brayton sold his house to Philip Baker, a shoemaker, and his store to Joseph F. Chace and John A. Wood, traders. Other trades represented were those common to a developing village, such as a wheelwright shop and smith shop.

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Historical Significance (continued)

The presence of these commercial entities brought increasing identity to the village and encouraged the establishment of several institutions there. A Post Office had been established in 1814 and in 1830 the Union Meeting House was built on the site of the present Town Hall. Methodists, Baptists, Swedenborgians, and Universalists participated in the dedication service and subsequently met there for worship. It was in the Meeting House that the Swansea Social Library was organized in 1841. This group purchased books to be passed from member to member. Soon the name was changed to Swansea Public Library Association, the predecessor of the Free Public Library housed in various village locations until the library was constructed in 1899.

Union Meeting House continued to be used for social and civic meetings for many years, although shifting loyalties among its supporting groups resulted in less frequent services by ca. 1845. The Episcopalians of Swansea had been attending services in neighboring Warren, Rhode Island, but in 1845, the Rev. Amos D. McCoy of the Church of the Ascension in Fall River began to preach in the Meeting House. Many in the village became interested in the establishment of an Episcopal Church and, consequently, Christ Church was organized in 1846. An attractive Gothic Revival edifice was erected on the site of the present church on Main Street and dedicated in December 1847. Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814) with its Gothic Revival gateway is a vestige of the church's early presence in the village.

In addition to these institutional developments, a paper mill began operations at the foot of Ledge Road on Lewin Brook ca. 1840. Ledge Road was then referred to as Paper Mill Lane. Here William Mitchell manufactured straw paper. The factory may have occupied the site of an early Swansea cotton factory operated by the Swansey Union Cotton Manufacturing Company, about which little is known. The precise location of this first factory is unclear according to secondary sources, some of which document the factory site as Lewin Brook and other as west of Swansea Village. About mid-century the paper mill (demolished) housed a bakery and dancehall under the proprietorship of Howard & Mitchell and later Howard and other partners. [Wright, 134]

By ca. 1850, Swansea Village had assumed the character of a self-sufficient nucleated settlement. According to a map of the period, the village consisted of at least one dozen residences, six shops, two churches, and Gray's Hotel, all ranged roughly from the present Stevens Road to the Main Street-Ledge Road intersection. The presence of the hotel (no longer extant), situated near Elm Street on the road east to Somerset, Dighton, and Taunton, caused the adjacent intersection to be known as "Gray's Corner." The hotel was replaced with a second hotel ca. 1870.

A business partnership established during the California Gold Rush of 1849 precipitated a great deal of development in Swansea Village in ensuing decades. James Birch, an unknown young man, probably from South Carolina, departed from Providence to seek his fortune. In the same party traveling west was Frank Shaw Stevens, a native of Vermont. These men and others operated a business in California for hauling goods and provisions to miners and travelers in the mountains. Stevens later engaged in restaurant and stage coach concerns. James Birch returned to the East Coast and in 1852 married Julia Chace in Swansea Village. Their mansion on the village street, 24 Main Street (ca. 1855, MHC #D61, Photo #2), was completed shortly before Mr. Birch was lost at sea in 1857 at the age of twenty-nine. Mrs. Birch married her former husband's business partner, Frank S. Stevens (1827-1898), in 1858. The couple made their home in the mansion in Swansea Village. Stevens became very active in the life of the community, and was involved in the direction of several mills in Fall River, distilleries in Kentucky, and many other

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Historical Significance (continued)

enterprises. In 1873, after the death of his wife Julia, Stevens married Elizabeth Case (d. 1930), whose family owned the hotel in the village (789 Stevens Road, ca. 1870, MHC #D69). The financial resources of the Stevens family changed the face of Swansea Village.

Perhaps the activity conducted on the largest scale in Swansea Village during the third quarter of the 19th century was the operation of the Stevens Farm, which covered large tracts of land north and south of Main Street at the eastern edge of the village. Horsebreeding and cultivation of crops were the principal activities. Work on the farm generated the construction of nearly one-half dozen homes ca. 1860. At least four Italianate cottages at 86, 92, and 96 Main Street (MHC #D54, D53, D51) and 745 Stevens Road (MHC #D70) are known to have been constructed by Stevens for the families of men under his employ; a fifth cottage at 123 Elm Street (not surveyed) is another possible Stevens cottage.

The Stevens cottages comprised the bulk of residential construction in Swansea Village during these years. Other individuals who built homes in the village include Henry Wood, who owned the former Brayton Store and post office at the corner of Main and Elm Streets. His house at 80 Main Street (ca. 1880, MHC #D55, Photo #3) at the corner of Ledge Road is a late Italianate cross-gabled dwelling with a wrap-around porch, and bespeaks its owner's position in the community. Wood's duties as Town Clerk after 1880 were carried out in his home before the construction of a town hall. A noteworthy house due to its unusual style in the village is the home of Thomas Chase at 52 Main Street (ca. 1870, MHC #D59). The village's only mansard cottage, the Chase House is one of the few Second Empire houses known to have been built in Swansea.

Considerable building activity characterized the last decade of the 19th century at Swansea Village. A town hall, library, and new Episcopal church were among the buildings constructed. All three buildings was funded by the Stevens family, whose generosity eventually resulted in five new town buildings at Swansea Village. In 1891 Frank Stevens presented Town Hall on Main Street (MHC #D67, Photo #3), a building of Romanesque Revival design constructed from rough field stones taken from walls on the farms owned by Stevens. The dedication proceedings record that Stevens located the building in that part of Swansea he determined to be most likely to increase in value in the future, i.e., a developing area. Early town meetings were held in a meetinghouse in Barrington, Rhode Island, and later in privately owned homes or halls at North Swansea, Luther's Corner, and Hortonville. Architect of Town Hall, J. Merrill Brown (b. 1853) of Boston, studied at M.I.T. and worked in the offices of H. H. Richardson and Peabody & Stearns. His commissions include the Free Public Library in Rochester, Mass. (1891-2), the Massasoit National Bank in Fall River, and the Eddy Building in New Bedford.

The legacy of Frank Stevens continued after his 1898 death, with his wife and estate assuming the costs of constructing a new building for Christ Church (MHC #D68, Photo #5) and a Public Library (MHC #D66, Photo #4), both completed on Main Street in 1900. Though not a communicant of Christ Church, Stevens had been interested in the church's value to the community. The early Gothic Revival building was sold at auction and removed from the site in 1899, and worship continued at Town Hall during construction. The present Gothic Revival vernacular church was consecrated June 6, 1900. Swansea Free Public Library started in 1882 as the Christ Church Book Circle. The following year the Swansea Public Library Association was organized with the donated Christ Church collection. For more than a decade the library successively operated out of private homes, a vacant store, the post office, and finally the town hall. The town voted for the construction of a Free Public Library in March 1896.

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Historical Significance (continued)

Boston architect Henry Vaughan designed both church and library, thus beginning an association with the Stevens family that would last until his death in 1917. A prominent ecclesiastical architect especially noted for his Gothic Revival designs, Vaughan was born and schooled in England where he worked for the renowned English Gothicist George Bodley. The two men collaborated on the National Cathedral in Washington, DC after 1906. Vaughan relocated to Boston in 1882, although the circumstances of his initial acquaintance with the Stevens family of Swansea are unclear. [Morgan, 166] In addition to the church and library, Vaughan's other commissions for Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank) Stevens are the bronze doors on her husband's tomb (1898) at Christ Church Cemetery (MHC #D814), and the Frank S. Stevens School at 1 Gardner's Neck Road (1908, MHC #D45). Stevens School is a Georgian Revival structure considered to be a reworking of the architect's design for the town library in Bourne, Mass. (1896-1897). Although the school bears the lantern/cupola seen in a number of Vaughan's non-Gothic designs, including the Swansea Library, the full-height tetrastyle portico is considered unusual in Vaughan's work. [Morgan, 127-129] Vaughan also drew up the early plans for the Joseph Case High School (1927) on Main Street, funded by Mrs. Stevens. World War I and the architect's death prevented completion of the school plans, which were eventually executed by another architect. [J. Case High School, 15] In 1927 Mrs. Stevens gave \$75,000 to the National Cathedral for one of the great crossing piers in Vaughan's memory. [Morgan, 166]

Other major construction at Swansea Village in the late 19th century was a new mill on Ledge Road, now known as the Swan Finishing Co. (MHC #D45). The present brick building was constructed ca. 1889 after a fire destroyed the previous wood building on the site, which housed a bleachery. A two-story brick addition on the south side dates to 1916. Swansea Dye Works, also known as Swansea Print Works, incorporated in 1890 and operated the factory until closing in 1956. Employing 50-60 hands by World War I and approximately 100 hands by 1930, the factory printed, dyed, bleached, and finished cotton piece goods [Wright, 134-5 and Stone, 295] and later served as an outlet for Fall River print cloth. Swan Finishing Co. purchased the plant in 1958. The factory is now used as a commercial storage facility.

The location of Swansea's new Odd Fellows lodge at Swansea Village affirmed the village's emerging status as the new town center in the late 19th century. In August 1893, a number of Odd Fellows who resided in Swansea but belonged to different area lodges were granted a charter. The Dorothy Brown Rebekah Lodge, named after the wife of early Swansea settler John Brown, was instituted at Town Hall later that year. The lodge built a Shingle Style meeting hall near Town Hall at 98 Ledge Road (MHC #D75) in 1899. [Wright, 240]

Residential construction at Swansea Village accelerated following the completion of the key town buildings and a new Post Office at 42 Main Street (ca. 1905, MHC #D157), and the Frank Stevens School at the western edge of the village in 1908. Several Colonial Revival and Craftsman style houses and bungalows were erected on open lots along the western end of Main Street as well as on Ledge Road and Elm Street. Particularly noteworthy are a bungalow of locally manufactured cement blocks at 108 Ledge Road (1908, MHC #D74), and a grouping of three gambrel roofed, shingled Colonial Revival houses reportedly built by the Kellogg family at 147, 155, and 157 Elm Street (ca. 1910, MHC #D89, D90).

The fifth town building at Swansea Village to be constructed with Stevens family funds is the Joseph Case High School (now Jr. High School) on Main Street (1927, MHC #D46). Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Stevens's father, the former high school is significant as the first in Swansea. Heretofore, Swansea students of high school age attended school in the neighboring towns of Warren and Fall River.

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Historical Significance (continued)

Swansea's population had expanded to such an extent in the early decades of the 20th century that the town was required to build its own high school. Initiated in 1916, the high school project was delayed by World War I, and finally realized in 1926 when Elizabeth Stevens officially notified the town of her desire to give a high school building.

While still the civic focus of the town, Swansea Village today is primarily a residential area. At least two of the larger properties were converted to institutional use before the mid-20th century. The Frank S. Stevens School for Boys was established at the Stevens mansion with residual funds from the estate of Elizabeth Stevens, who died in 1930. Her sister, Mary A. Case, bequeathed to the Episcopal Diocese the Case Hotel at 789 Stevens Road (MHC #D69) to establish the Eliza Gray Home. Operated for ten years by the diocese as a home for widows and daughters of Episcopal clergy, the building was subsequently sold several times and is now a private school. A single passive commercial venture, the storage facility at the Swan Finishing Co. on Ledge Road, is in operation, but most area businesses are confined to U. S. Route 6 south of the village or the malls on State Route 118 west of the village.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Swansea Village comprises the greatest concentration of intact buildings associated with historic development of the village. Boundaries incorporate a line of convenience drawn approximately 200 feet from the road through large properties flanking Main Street. Lewin Brook and Pond provide a natural boundary along a portion of the village's southwestern edge. The village is distinguished from contemporary development to the southwest, and areas of less concentrated settlement to the east, west, north, and southeast.

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JAN 02 1990

71  
AREA

FORM NO.

99

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

(see attached map)

Town Swansea, Mass. MRA  
SWANSEA

Address 495 Marvel Street

Historic Name Walkden Farm

Use: Present residence

Original residence/farmstead

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1800

Source visual analysis

Style Federal vernacular

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric asbestos shingle

Outbuildings barn (ca. 1885)

Major Alterations (with dates) none

(shingled prob. applied in mid-20th cent.)

Condition fair

Moved no Date ---

approximately two acres (nominated)

Acreage total property approx. 8 acres

Setting Located on northwest corner of

Sharps Lot Road and Marvel Street with

little building setback; rural area.

UTM REFERENCE 19 319450 4627020

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA 1985

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by K. Flynn, K. Valente/K. Broomer

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date May 1986/November 1989



## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Walkden farmhouse, 495 Marvel Street, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association and is significant on the local level. The vernacular farmhouse with associated barn illustrates the dispersed nature of Swansea's agriculture-based settlement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as typical farmhouse construction in Swansea during the period, and meets Criteria A and C.

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

This 2½-story farmhouse is a good example of the vernacular Swansea farmstead constructed during the Federal period (1775-1830). The house is of the traditional five-bay, center-entry, center-chimney form with a double-pile plan. An enclosed hip roof entry is distinguished by corner pilasters and a wide, plain frieze; the door is flanked by full-length sidelights. This entrance treatment was employed elsewhere in Swansea during the same period, most notably at 412 Old Warren Road (MHC #B20). Windows are simply articulated with drip boards and contain replacement 2/2 sash. The one-story, three-bay, gabled ell incorporates a secondary entry on the east side, and a wood bulkhead appears at the juncture of the main block and ell. The application of asbestos shingles to the exterior walls has not compromised the house's design in terms of massing, plan, fenestration pattern, or detailing. North of the house is a well-preserved 1½-story shingled barn (ca. 1885) with exposed rafters and a gambrel roof oriented perpendicular to Sharps Lot Road.

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

Walkden Farm is associated with two important elements of Swansea's agricultural activity, dairy farming, through the 19th and early 20th centuries, and market gardening, particularly in the first half of the 20th century. Marshall Walkden, a dairy farmer, owned the property in the late 19th century. The farm is also associated with the Earle and Isherwood families of Swansea; the Isherwoods operated a large farm further east on Marvel Street. Although the original size of the farm is currently unknown, the property is believed to have extended north and west of the Marvel Street-Sharps Lot Road intersection. The property along Marvel Street in particular has been subdivided for house lots in recent decades. The nomination is confined to that portion of the roughly 8-acre lot containing house and barn at the corner of Marvel Street and Sharps Lot Road.

Located in the comparatively remote northeastern section of town, Marvel Street is part of a colonial east-west road between Hortonville Road, a major north-south route connecting Gardner's Neck in Swansea to Rehoboth, and the present town of Somerset. The location of the house and barn reflects the dispersed character of agriculture-related settlement in Swansea in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This section remains the town's most rural, although there is increasing pressure on historic resources from new residential development.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1849 map of Swansea and 1871 and 1895 atlases of Bristol County.  
Wright, O.O. History of Swansea. 1917.  
Dighton, Somerset, and Swansea Directory, 1904.  
Helen Pierce, Swansea Historical Society, interview, 11/89.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Swansea MRA  
Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

Cover

~~Substantive Review~~Accept *Peter L. Savage* 02-16-90  
*Cover*

1. Anthony, David M., House

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

2. Anthony, Harold H., House

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

3. Bark Street School

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

4. Barneyville Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

5. Bend of the Lane

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

6. Brown, John, IV, House

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

7. Buffington, Deacon, John, House

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

8. Church of Christ, Swansea

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

9. Cole, Benjamin, House

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper *Melanie Byers* 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

10/ Colony Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~*for* Keeper *Peter L. Savage* 02-16-90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Swansea MRA

Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Date Listed

11. First Baptist Church and Society

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

12. Gardner, Francis L., House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

13. Gardner, Joseph, House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

14. Gardner, Preserved, House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

15. Gardner, Samuel, House

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

16. Hooper House

~~Substantive Review~~for Keeper Beth L. Sarge 8/8/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

17. Hortonville Historic District

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

18. Johnson, J. V., House

~~Substantive Review~~for Keeper Beth L. Sarge 8/8/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

19. Luther House

~~Substantive Review~~for Keeper Beth L. Sarge 8/8/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

20. Luther's Corner

Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

1/2/90

Swansea MRA

Date Listed

Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

- |     |                                   |                                     |   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 21. | Luther, William, House            | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 221 | Norton House                      | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 23. | Short's Tavern                    | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 24. | Simcock House                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 25. | Smuggler's House                  | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 26. | South Swansea Union Church        | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 27. | Swansea Village Historic District | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 28. | Walkden Farm                      | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> <u>2/16/90</u>  |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |
| 29. | Mason, William P., House          | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper <u><i>John H. Savage</i></u> <u>8/8/90</u> |
|     |                                   |                                     | Attest _____                                      |



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET~~SUBSTANTIVE REVIEW~~Swansea MRA (Cover)  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

1/2/90

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 2/2/90 - 2/16/90Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/90☐ RETURN☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

## Reviewer's comments:

*the cover form provides contextual documentation on pivotal chapters in the community's historical development: Early Settlement, 18th-Century Growth, The 5 Villages Cuvole, and post Civil War Suburbanization. This framework would have worked well in the multiple property documentation format with these 4 contexts and some concomitant property types.*

Recom./Criteria AcceptReviewer SavageDiscipline Architectural HistoryDate 02/16/90

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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good ☐ ruins  
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

## Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

## Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet*



412 OLD WARREN RD (#E20)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 314350 4623320

LUTHER'S CORNER HIST. DIST.  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315050 4623630

79 OLD WARREN ROAD (#E22)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315320 4623760

181 CEDAR AVENUE (#112)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315400 4623190

262 CEDAR AVENUE (#113)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315540 4623100

361 PEARSE ROAD (#116)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315060 4622510

703 PEARSE ROAD (#120)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 314680 4621740

SOUTH SWANSEA UNION CH. (#F126)  
GARDNER'S NECK ROAD  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25000  
19 316880 4621270

1035 GARDNER'S NECK RD (#F14)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 316820 4621140

1129 GARDNER'S NECK RD. (#F142)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 316780 4620900

1205 GARDNER'S NECK RD. (#F145)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 316640 4620660

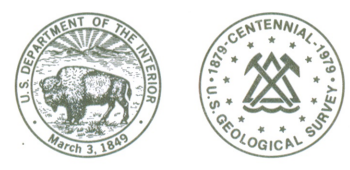
36 RIVERVIEW AVENUE (#F137)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 316740 4620300

98 BAY POINT (#F149)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 316110 4619770

132 BAY POINT (#F150)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
19 315970 4619820

THE COLONY HIST. DIST.  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
A 19 316610 4619630  
B 19 316330 4619580  
C 19 316330 4619770

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

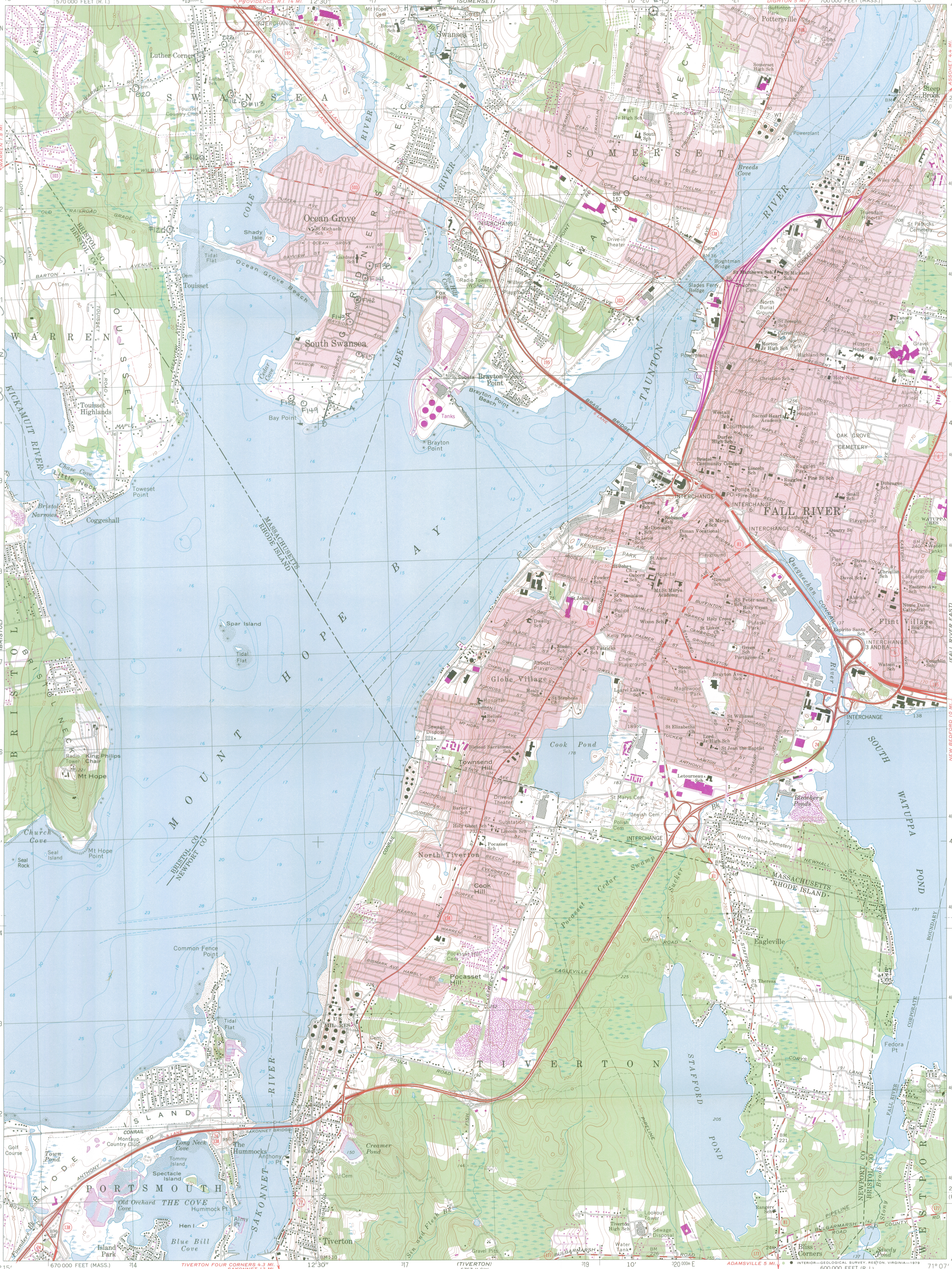


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FALL RIVER QUADRANGLE  
MASSACHUSETTS—RHODE ISLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

PARK STREET SCHOOL (#93)  
68 STEVENS ROAD  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD  
1:25000  
19 320080 4624000

SWANSEA VILLAGE H.D.  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
FALL RIVER QUAD 1:25000  
A 19 318160 4624040  
B 19 318180 4623670  
C 19 317840 4623660  
D 19 317820 4623430  
E 19 317770 4623580  
F 19 317760 4623930  
G 19 317370 4623970  
H 19 317410 4624110  
I 19 317720 4624120



Map produced and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1938-1939. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)  
and 353 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information furnished  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



SCALE 1:25 000  
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.4 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



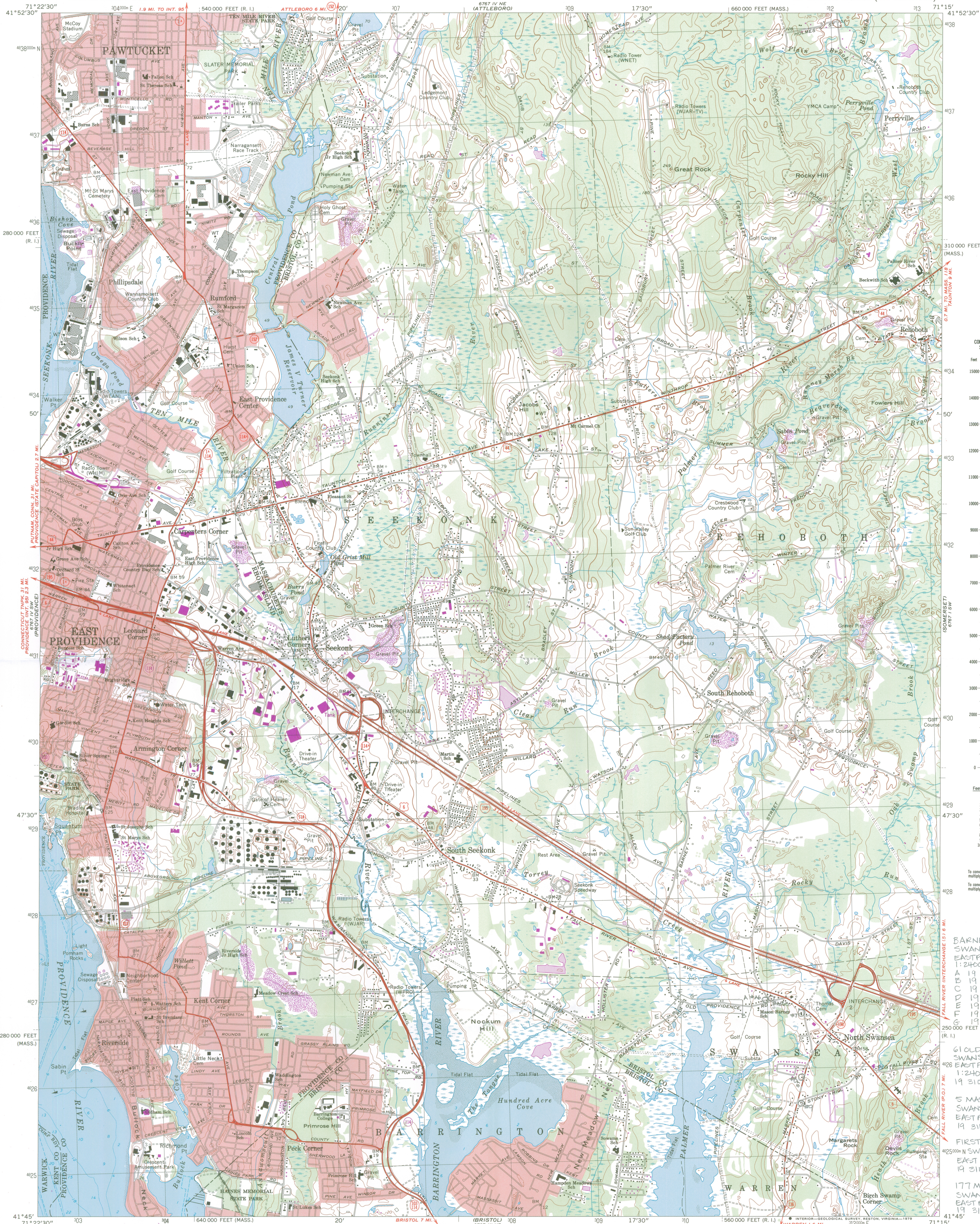
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

FALL RIVER, MASS.—R.I.  
N4137.5—W7107.5/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6767 11 NW—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EAST PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE  
RHODE ISLAND - MASSACHUSETTS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



CONVERSION  
SCALES



Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 0.3048  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

BARNEVILLE HIST. DIST  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROVIDENCE QUAD  
1:24000

A	19	310720	4626810
B	19	310710	4626660
C	19	310080	4626700
D	19	309870	4626540
E	19	309770	4626650
F	19	310010	4626890
G	19	310120	4626840

61 OLD PROVIDENCE RD (#A6)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROVIDENCE QUAD  
1:24000

19	310490	4626800
----	--------	---------

5 MAEN STREET (#A163)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROV. QUAD 1:24000

19	310500	4626810
----	--------	---------

FIRST BAPTIST CH. (#7)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROV. QUAD 1:24000

19	311390	4626630
----	--------	---------

177 MARKET STREET (#B)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROV. QUAD 1:24000

19	311280	4625890
----	--------	---------

282 MARKET ST. (#9)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MRA  
EAST PROV. QUAD 1:24000

19	311360	4625600
----	--------	---------

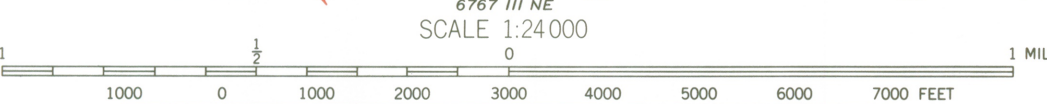
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with Massachusetts Department  
of Public Works

Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1939  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS Charts 278 and  
352 (1970). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.6 FEET

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

EAST PROVIDENCE, R. I. - MASS.  
N4145-W7115/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

PHOTOREPRODUCED 1979  
AMS 6767 IV SE-SERIES V814

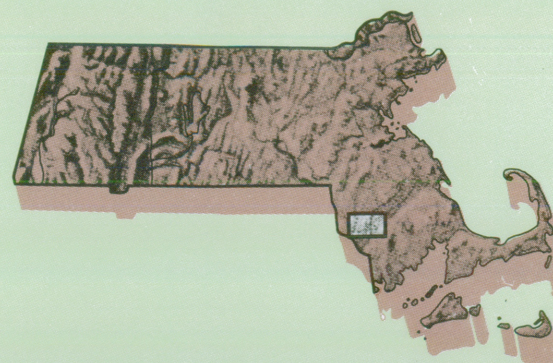


SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

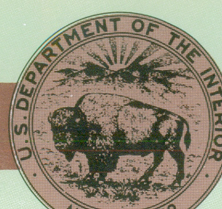
Somerset  
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric  
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE  
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1985

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1985. Superimposed Assonet and Somerset 1:25 000-scale maps dated 1977 and 1967

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 13222 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS

DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.9 METER

THIS MAP COMPLEYS WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

1	3.2808		1	2	3
2	6.5617		4	5	
3	9.8425		6	7	8
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467				
9	29.5275				
10	32.8084				
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1985 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map Diagram is approximate	1 Attleboro 2 Taunton 3 Bridgewater 4 Providence 5 Assawamuck Point 6 Bristol (7.5°) 7 Fall River 8 New Bedford North		
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048					

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	.....
Secondary highway, hard surface	.....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	.....
Unimproved road, trail	.....
Route marker: Interstate, U. S. State	.....
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Bulldrop area: only selected landmark	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation, small park	.....
Land grant with monument; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section	.....
Range, township; section line: location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Disrupted surface: strip mine, lava, and	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Saline marsh; marsh, swamp	.....
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

0.74 SHARPS LOT ROAD (#97)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
19 314490 4621450

495 MARVEL STREET (#97)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
19 314450 4621020

HORTONVILLE HIST. DIST.  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
A 19 317160 4621120  
B 19 317210 4626970  
C 19 316630 4626850  
D 19 316410 4626580  
E 19 316020 4626610  
F 19 315750 4626490  
G 19 315180 4626430  
H 19 315240 4621000  
I 19 316210 4627090

306 HORTONVILLE ROAD (#42)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
19 317350 4625080

90 MILFORD ROAD (#110)  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
19 317120 4624250

CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST  
SWANSEA, MASS. MSA  
SOMERSET QUAD 1:25 000  
19 314980 4624300

SCALE 1:25 000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS

41071-G1-TM-025

1985



JAN 02 1990

~~DEC 20 1989~~



December 20, 1989

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:

Swansea Multiple Resource Area, Swansea (Bristol County), Massachusetts.

There has been no owner objections for the above mentioned property.

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. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Tait  
Acting National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:



RECEIVED

JUN 25 1990

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

June 15, 1990

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:

Please find the following individual properties of the Swansea Multiple Resource Area National Register Nomination which was returned on 2/16/90. All corrections have been made for resubmission:

36 Riverview Avenue  
306 Hortonville Road  
5 Mason Street  
177 Market Street.

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure: