

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.11
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Mason, Valentine House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1468 G.A.R. Hwy U.S. Route 6
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	58;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1810
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture;
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Shingle; Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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USGS - SOMERSET  
PL-

AREA

FORM NO.

	11
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Town SWANSEA

Address 1468 G.A.R. Highway

Historic Name Valentine Mason House

Use: Present Residence

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca.1810

Source Fall River Registry of Deeds

Style Cape Cod Farmhouse

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Wooden shingles

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Unstable state of repair.

Moved No Date

Acreage Over one acre

Setting Located on Route 6, a commercial strip mixed with residences, this house survives with several acres surrounding it.

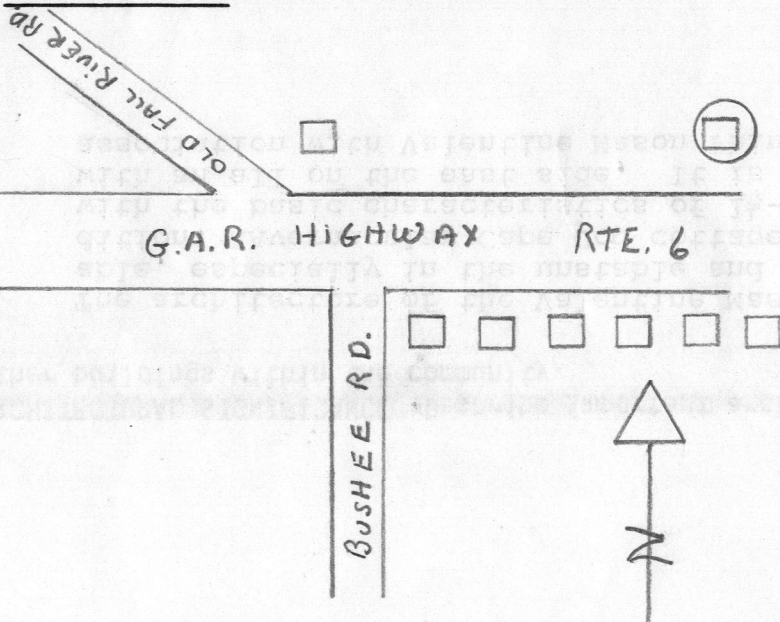
Recorded by Kay Flynn/H. Pierce '78

Organization Swansea Historical

Date April, 1986 Commission



Intersection(s).  
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Somerset, MA., 1967/79

SCALE



NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The architecture of the Valentine Mason House is not presently remarkable, especially in the unstable and therefore, threatened physical condition. A vernacular Cape Cod cottage, of which there are many in Swansea with the basic characteristics of 1½-stories, 5-bay, central chimney with an ell on the east side, It is remarkable for the historical association with Valentine Mason Phinney.

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

This acreage was a part of the vast holdings of Sampson Mason, soldier under Cromwell who settled here about 1650. Members of his family were active in the religious and governmental activities during the development of the town. Pelatiah and John Mason in 1803 sold to Daniel Phinney a sixty acre farm from the original grant. In 1812 Daniel Phinney sold to Elisha Phinney the same farm with a house and buildings thereon. Elisha Phinney sold to Ebenezer Terry and Terry to Valentine Mason bringing it back into the Mason family in 1819. Valentine Mason Jr. became a very successful superintendant of construction of stone buildings. Perhaps the most notable was the United States Treasury building beginning in 1858. Locally he was responsible for the many Fall River Mill buildings, B.M.C. Durfee High School, Bristol County Court House, Fall River Public Library, Swansea Public Library and Christ Church.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Swansea Maps  
Swansea History

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

58 11



1. Town Swansea, Mass.

Address 1469 G.A.R. Highway

Name Valentine Mason House

Present use Residence

Present owner Mary Machado

3. Description:

Date c. 1810

Source Fall River Registry of Deeds

Style Cape Cod Farmhouse

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Wooden Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 410 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

15 feet

6. Recorded by Helen R. Pierce

Organization Swansea Historical

Date September 14, 1979

RECEIVED

OCT 17 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Phinney

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Farm and residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This acreage was a part of the vast holdings of Sampson Mason, soldier under Cromwell who settled here about 1650. Members of his family were active in the religious and governmental activities during the development of the town. Pelatiah and John Mason in 1803 sold to Daniel Phinney a sixty acre farm from the original grant. In 1812 Daniel Phinney sold to Elisha Phinney the same farm with a house and buildings thereon. Elisha Phinney sold to Ebenezer Terry and Terry to Valentine Mason bringing it back into the Mason family in 1819. Valentine Mason Jr. became a very successful superintendent of construction of stone buildings. Perhaps the most notable was the United States Treasury building beginning in 1858. Locally he was responsible for the many Fall River Mill buildings, B.M.C. Durfee High School, Bristol County Court House, Fall River Public Library, Swansea Public Library and Christ Church.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Swansea Maps  
Swansea History