

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SWN.122
Historic Name:	Sisson - Ingleside House
Common Name:	
Address:	2 Seaview Ave
City/Town:	Swansea
Village/Neighborhood:	Touisset;
Local No:	18;
Year Constructed:	C 1710
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial;
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture;
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Shingle;
Demolished	No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

Boston University

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #

USGS Quad

Area

Form #

SWN. 122

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town Swansea

Place Touissant Neck

Address 2 Seaview Avenue

Historic Name Sisson House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

Date 18th century

Source physical evidence

Style/Form Cape

Architect N/A

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble stone

Wall/Trim wood shingles

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings none

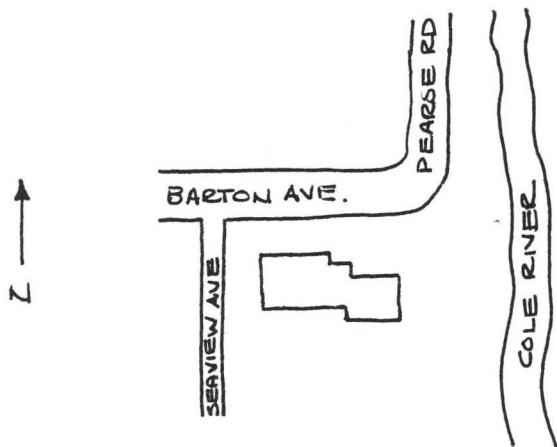
Major Alterations see description

Condition good

Moved no

Acreage one acre

Setting rural, adjacent to the Cole River



Recorded by Linda S. DesRoches

Organization Boston University Preservation Studies

Date May 1997

RECEIVED

NOV 1 1998

MASS. HIST. COMM.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Sisson House at 2 Seaview Avenue is traditionally thought to have been built in 1710 for George Sisson, possibly as a hall-and-parlor house. Evidence of reused decorated timbers (summer beam) in the cellar suggests that an early First period house may have originally been built on the site. Physical evidence suggests that the current house dates from the eighteenth century, and that it was expanded in the mid 19th century and again in the 1930s. Facing south, the well-preserved single-story, seven-bay, main block was constructed in two phases: the eastern four bays first, then expanded with the addition of the western three bays. The house has two front doors, in bays three and seven, each in the easternmost bay of its respective section. A wing on the east side of the main block and set slightly forward was the last addition to be built to house the modern kitchen; it has been updated in the last decade. A modern garage is connected to the kitchen wing on the far east side of the structure. The house is set on approximately an acre of land and overlooks a lawn and gardens to the south, the Cole River to the east and roadways on the north and west sides of the property. It is possible that an early entrance on the north elevation of the main block has been boarded over and that the main block of the first building on the property faced east towards the adjacent river.

HISTORIC NARRATIVE

The Sisson House is thought to be the house built on a portion of the property belonging to George Sisson (1664-1718), and referenced in his will probated in 1718. The will gave to George Sisson (1682-1775) Jr. "the farm now possessed by him at Touissant Neck in Swansey"; it is said to have included one hundred acres running along Barton Avenue from the Cole River to the present Touisset Point Road in Warren, Rhode Island. The position of this house at the corner of Barton Avenue and adjacent to the Cole River represents the far northeastern corner of the one-hundred acre property. George Jr. married first, Mercy and had five children born between 1709 and 1717. He married second, Lydia Cole of Swansey, daughter of Deborah and Hugh Cole, house carpenter. Six children were born of the second marriage between 1722 and 1733. Ownership of the house remained in the Sisson family passing to James (1717-1805), son of George Jr., and then to his nephew, Richard Sisson, son of George III. Ownership in the nineteenth and twentieth century is undocumented. The family of the present owner, D. Jenkins, has owned the property since the 1980s.

REFERENCES

Flynn, Kay and G. Goff, MHC Form B, 1978.

X Recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. See National Register Criteria statement for Bristol County, First Period Building survey.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community
SwanseaProperty Address
2 Seaview AvenueMassachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Area

Form # SWN.122

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior of the earliest section is configured in a modified five-room plan. Entering into the entrance hall through the easternmost facade door, it is possible to step to the right into the c.1930s kitchen, or to the left into the kitchen, trimmed possibly late in the eighteenth century. The early kitchen (Room #1) with its raised-panel fireplace wall above the main cooking area would normally be thought of as a room in the rear pile. A boxed and beaded summer beam runs from east to west in this room. Orientation of the building may have changed over the years to its present configuration which faces away from Barton Avenue. Small rooms to either side of the early kitchen have current-day uses as a bathroom (Room #2) on the right/east side and small storage room (Room #4) and staircases, both up and down, on the left or west side. Boxed and beaded corner posts can be seen in these rooms.

The center chimney of this section provides two additional fireplaces in the north and probably the original front section of the house. The fireplace surround in the northwest room (Room #5) has scenic tiles and small bolelection molding. In the northeast room (Room #3) butterfly strap hinges and other early eighteenth century hardware can be seen on the built-in wall cupboard.

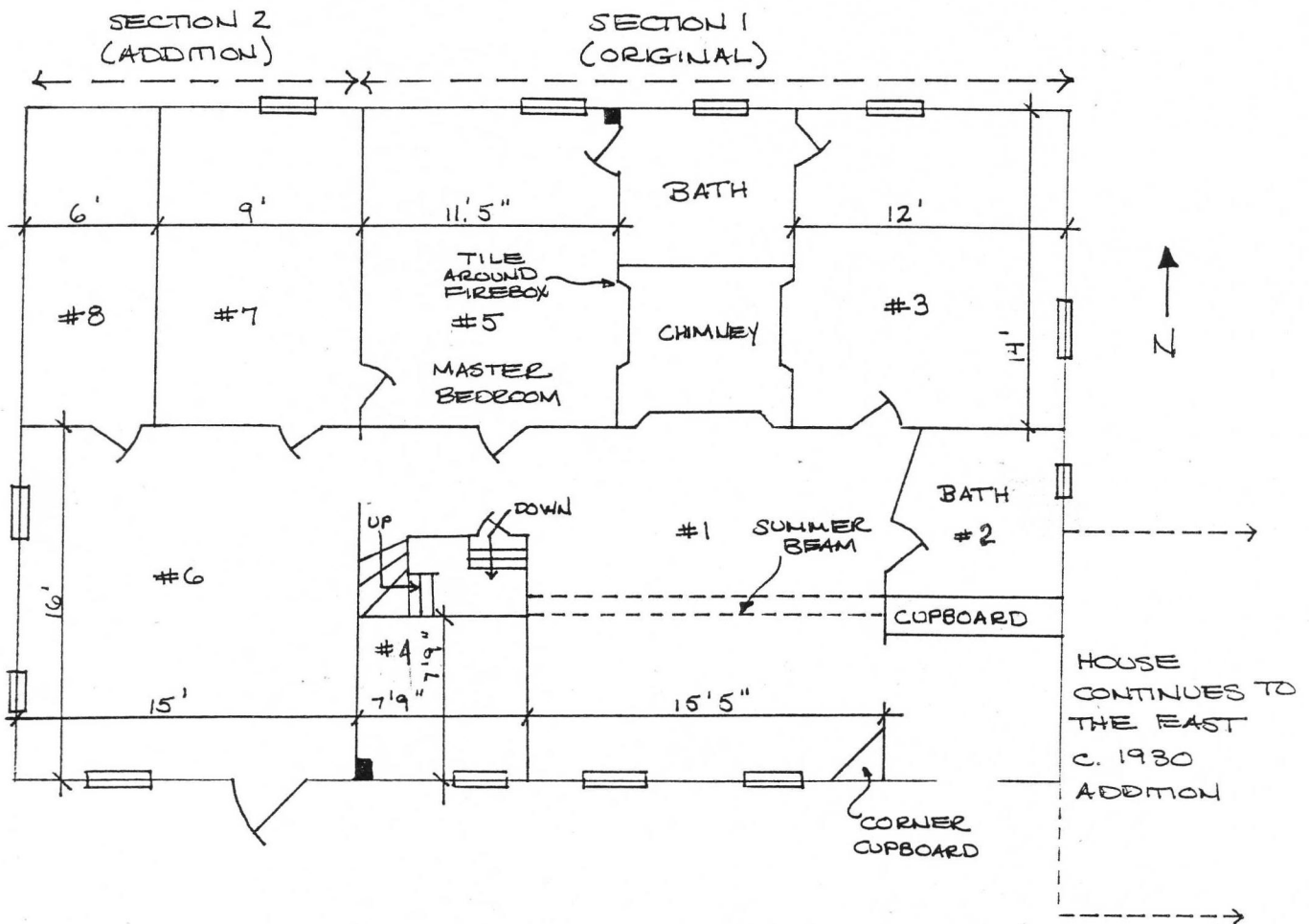
The west section of the main block was likely added in the middle decades of the nineteenth century and has three rooms, one facing south with an exterior doorway (Room #6), and two smaller rooms on the north side (Rooms #7 and 8). A nineteenth century chimney stack provides a fireplace in the south facing room. The current configuration of the second floor rooms seems to date to the early part of the twentieth century to accommodate multiple bedrooms. Exposed rafters and collar ties as well as the plank frame can be seen on this level. Set on a stone foundation, there is a full cellar under the main block.

FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET
 MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MA 02125

Community Property Address
 SWANSEA 2 SEAVIEW AVE.

Area(s) Form No. SWA. 122



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Community
Swansea

Property Address
2 Seaview Avenue

Area

Form # *SNM. 122*



ROOM 1, FIRST FLOOR
RAISED PANEL FIREPLACE
SURROUND.



ROOM 2, FIRST FLOOR
PLATE, GIRT & BOXED AND
BEADED CORNER POST

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Community
Swansea

Property Address
2 Seaview Avenue

Area

Form # SNN.122



ROOM 3, FIRST FLOOR
BUILT-IN WALL
CUPBOARD



ROOM 5, FIRST FLOOR
H-L HINGES AND BOXED
BEADED CORNER POST

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Community
Swansea

Property Address
2 Seaview Avenue

Area

Form # SWN. 122



ROOM 5, FIRST FLOOR
RAISED PANEL FIREPLACE
SURROUND WITH TILES
SMALL BOLECTION MOLDING



DOOR BETWEEN SECTION
1 & 2 (ORIGINAL & ADDITION)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

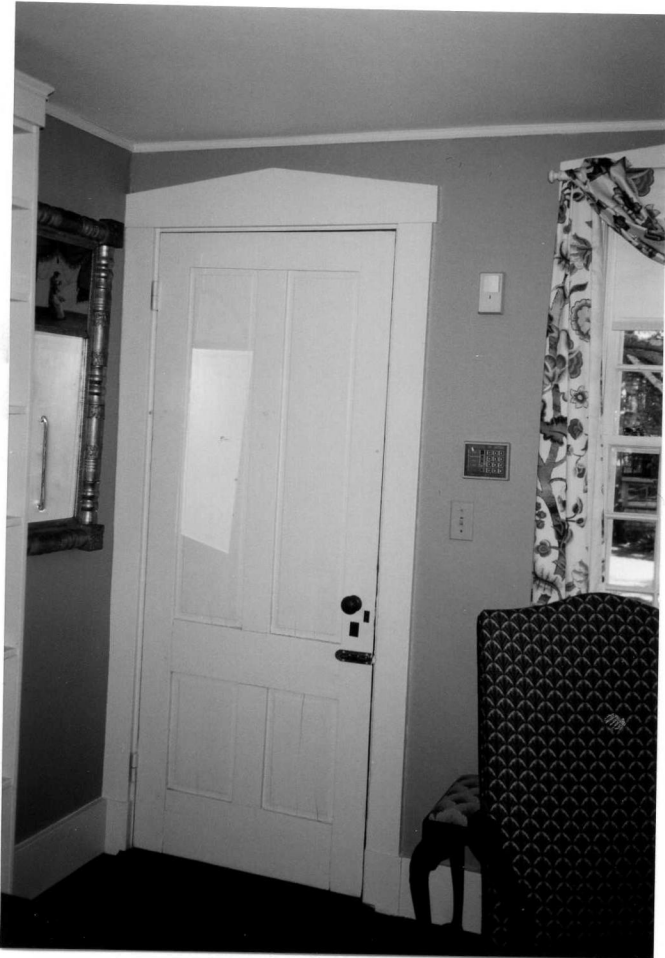
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Community
Swansea

Property Address
2 Seaview Avenue

Area

Form # SWN.122



ROOM 6, FIRST FLOOR
EXTERIOR DOOR (SOUTH) ON
ADDITION.



DOORWAY TO STAIR UP TO
SECOND FLOOR

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

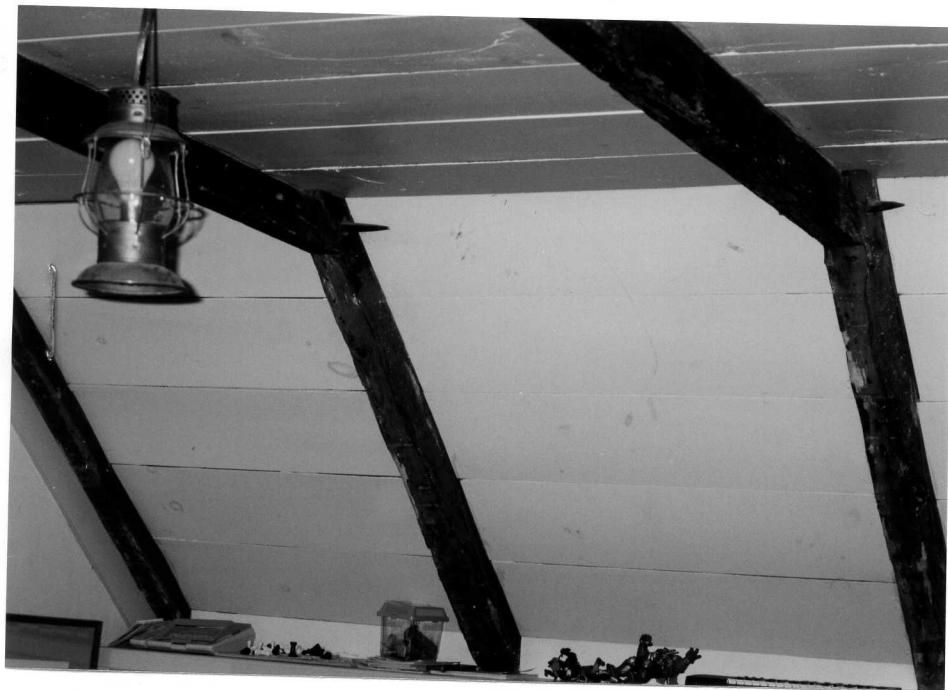
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston MA 02125

Community
Swansea

Area

Property Address
2 Seaview Avenue

Form # SWN.122



SECOND FLOOR
PEGGED RAFTERS



CELLAR :
CHAMFERED BEAM
USED AS SUPPORT
TIMBER - MORTISED
INTO SILL
(RECYCLED)

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Swansea

Area

Property Address
2 Seaview Ave.

Form # SWN.122

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.
☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.
☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Claire W. Dempsey.**

This property was surveyed by students in the Boston University Preservation Studies Program for its First Period Survey of the Old Plymouth Colony. Using MHC's MACRIS database, properties believed to have been constructed before 1720 were visited by students, to examine their interiors for physical evidence to support this claim. Although further research may reveal important contradictory evidence, no portions of an exposed and decorated frame were visible at this time. This building appears from this examination to date instead to the mid-to-late 18th century, an important discovery in its own right. In addition, the building is an important remnant of the town's early settlement period. This property retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association, and is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, at the local level of significance.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	SWN.122
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FIRST PERIOD SURVEY FORMS:

A guide to their use

Between 1997 and 2000, Boston University's Preservation Studies Program conducted a survey focusing on properties constructed during the first century of colonial settlement in southeastern Massachusetts. With funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Survey & Planning Grant Program, students worked with faculty members Richard M. Candee and Claire W. Dempsey to identify these important properties. This survey form is a product of that effort, and, since the research method and goal of the survey varies from standard MHC surveys, some guidelines to their strengths and limitations seemed appropriate.

At the beginning of the project, potential First Period properties were identified using the MHC's MACRIS database. For each of the towns in Plymouth and Bristol counties, a list was created which included all properties said to have been constructed before 1720. Students then arranged with property-owners to visit these buildings and examine their interiors for evidence of early construction. Visits commonly took from three to five hours, and occasionally longer. They then wrote up inventory forms summarizing their findings, using color photographs and occasional sketch plans to illustrate them.

First Period buildings are defined as those which exhibit characteristics of carpentry that were in common use during this period, and include the use of a decorated timber frame. In spite of the early dates assigned to them, most of the buildings which have been examined did not exhibit any evidence to support these claims. In the future, additional research, or the removal of some building fabric, may reveal evidence that would alter this assessment. The vast majority were, however, proved to be examples of later 18th-century construction, important buildings in their own right. The new forms should have been re-written to reflect the new assessment, but occasionally portions of the form, including the property's name and occasionally the traditional date of construction, were not changed. Except in rare instances, new documentary research was not conducted on these properties; the exceptions are noted on the form and a summary of the new assessment is included on the form.

Like all survey forms, these forms vary significantly from one another and from standard MHC forms in a number of ways and for a number of reasons. Buildings ranged from large to small, simple to complex, well-preserved to heavily altered; building owners might limit time and access and had different amounts of information about their property; and researchers each brought different skills and levels of experience to their field visit. Even this survey method allows for only a brief and basic assessment of the building and its construction history. Therefore, and again like all inventory forms, the information within them should be used carefully.

For more information about the method and findings of the First Period Survey Project, please see the Final Reports submitted each year to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, available from staff, or contact Claire Dempsey at Boston University, 617-353-9914.

PL-TDV
USGS - FALL

AREA

FORM NO.

	122
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Town SWANSEA

Address 2 Seaview Avenue

Historic Name Ingleside Sisson House

Use: Present Residence

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date C. 1710

Source Probate Records
Will of Geo. Sisson, 1718

Style Cape

Architect _____

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle

Outbuildings garage and summer kitchen

connected on east side

Major Alterations (with dates) Updated

renovation dates unknown

Condition In excellent renovated
condition.

Moved No Date _____

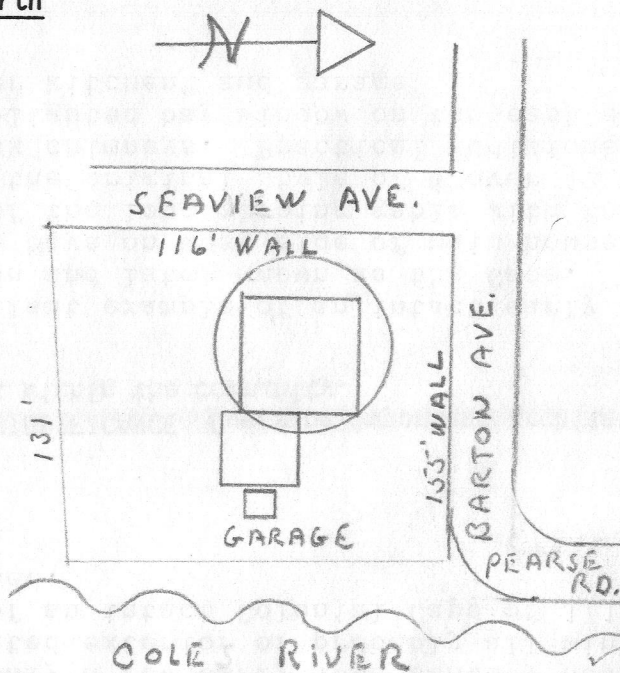
Acreage Less than one acre

Setting Located on the corner of Sea-
view and Barton Avenue in Touisset,
the house faces south (not either
street) and is enclosed on two sides
by stonewalls. Terraced and naturally
landscaped the house has a commanding
view of Cole River
Recorded by Kay Flynn/G.Goff 178

Organization Swansea Historical
Commission

Date February, 1986

intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-R.I. (NW), 1967/
1979

SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

One of only a few early 18th century houses extant in Swansea. Renovated and updated exterior of probably all windows, has not lessened its total impact of an intact Colonial Cape of 1710. The interior should be investigated.

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

An excellent example of an intact early 18th century cottage in the English tradition and later known as the Cape. The probable original structure (the 3 - bays on west side of main house) has the distinguishing characteristics of the long sloping gable with the windows close to the eaves, retaining the original style of 6 over 12 over 12 lights. There are two offset brick chimneys. Practical additions have extended this once small cottage a multi-lighted bay window on the east side of the main structure, along with a "summer kitchen" and garage

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

One of the oldest houses in Swansea -- Touisset area. An excellent example of the early "Cape" farmhouse. The house stands above hurricane flood level with center entrance facing south. The extensive farm is described in the will of George Sisson in 1718 as about 100 acres extending from Cole River westward along the present Barton Avenue to the present Touisset Point Road in Warren, R.I. Richard Sisson has been documented on the Revolutionary Muster Roll. However, other information about the Sisson family has not been recorded in secondary resources.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wright, Otis Olney, History of Swansea, Swansea, Ma., 1917. pg. 64
 Probate and Deed Research: The will of George Sisson(1) born 1644 died 1718, probated / 20/1718, gave to son George(2) the farm "new possessed by him at Touisset Neck in "Swansey." He in turn left it to his son George (3) in his will of 6/2/1793 who then willed it to his son James Sisson in 1805. Source of ownership, John L. Martin, geneologist. New Bedford, Mass. See Fash Plat of Seaview Ave. 8/1906 lot 3 deeded to Preston Gardner (Fall River Reg. of Deeds) 1902 Bk.90, pg 25 and to David Panline 1961, Bk. 458, pg.530 8/85
 The house is shown in local maps of 1850.

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

B

Form no.

122

18

City Swansea, Massachusetts

Address 2 Seaview Ave.

Name Ingleside - Sisson House

Present use Residence

Present owner Mrs. David Pahline

Description:

Reference C. 1710

Source Will of Geo. Sisson 1718

Style Cape 1½ story gable

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) Garage connected

Other features 2 brick chimneys on ridge. 5 window facade facing south

Carriage steps built in North stone wall.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less 0.3 Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 116 feet

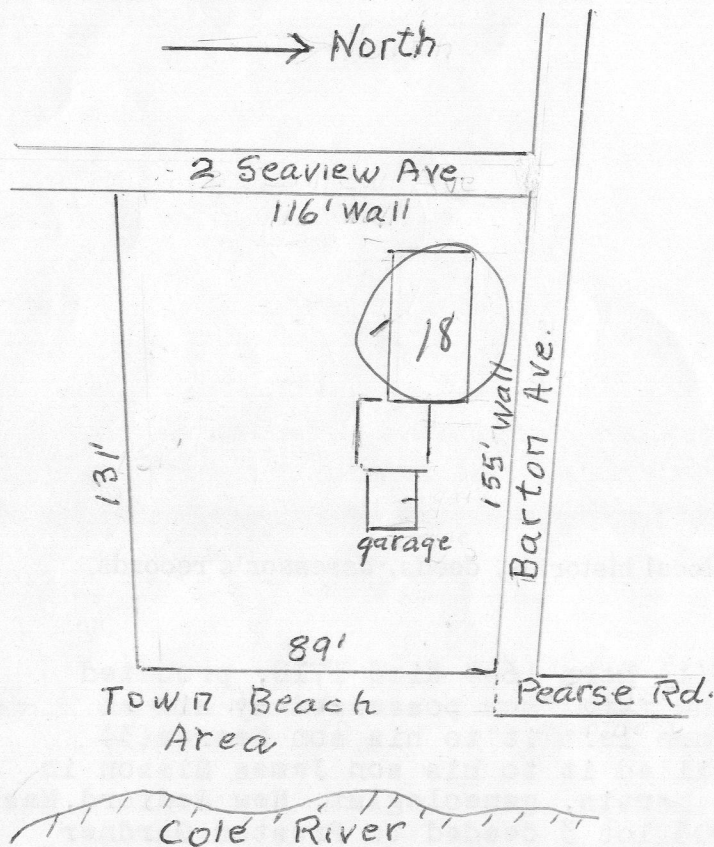
Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

6. Recorded by Godfrey Goff

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date November 1, 1978

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



(over)

7. Original owner (if known) George Sisson

Original use Farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	<u>x</u>	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

One of the oldest houses in Swansea -- Touisset area. An excellent example of the early "Cape " farmhouse virtually unaltered. The house stands above hurricane flood level, with center entrance facing south. The extensive farm is described in the will of George Sisson in 1718 as about 100 acres extending from Cole River westward along the present Barton Avenue to the present Touisset Point Road in Warren, R.I.

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

The will of George Sisson(1) born 1644 died 1718, probated 9/20/1718, gave to son George(2) the farm "now possessed by him at Touisset Neck in Swansey". He in turn left it to his son George(3) in his will of 6/2/1793 who then willed it to his son James Sisson in 1805. Source of ownership, John L. Martin, geneologist, New Bedford, Mass. See Fash Plat of Seaview Ave. 8/1906 lot 3 deeded to Preston Gardner (Fall River Reg. of Deeds) 1902 Bk.90, pg.25 and to David Pahline 1961, Bk.458, pg.530. The house is shown in local maps of 1850.