

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Inventory No: | SWN.117 |
| Historic Name: | Pearse Farm |
| Common Name: | The Inn |
| Address: | 486 Pearse Rd |
| City/Town: | Swansea |
| Village/Neighborhood: | Touisset; |
| Local No: | 23; |
| Year Constructed: | C 1810 |
| Architectural Style(s): | Federal; |
| Use(s): | Agricultural; Hotel or Inn; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House; |
| Significance: | Agriculture; Architecture; Recreation; |
| Area(s): | |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials: | Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; |
| Demolished | No |



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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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PL-TOU
USGS - FALL

AREA

FORM NO.

| | |
|--|-----|
| | 117 |
|--|-----|

Town SWANSEA - TOUISSET

Address 486 Pearse Road

Historic Name Pearse Farm/ "The Inn"

Use: Present Apartments

Original Farmstead

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1810

Source Book 101 Registry of Deeds, Taunton

Style Federal Colonial Style

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard and wood shingles

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates) Made into

Inn ca. 1922 Apartments ca. 1930's

Condition Without an interior inspection it is difficult to discern how much original fabric remains through such major alterations. It is being well maintained.

Moved NO Date

Acres Less than one acre-17,543 sq. ft.

Setting Situated on a small south-

facing site overlooking the Cole's

River, with a quiet road in between-

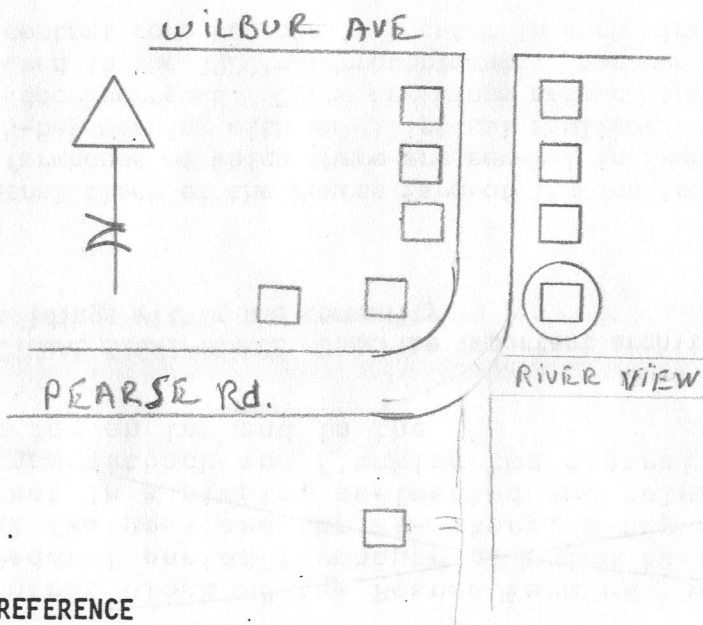
arural gone suburban setting.

Recorded by Kay Flynn/M.S. Gendron '78

Organization Swansea Historical Commission

Date February, 1986

intersection(s).
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA-R.T. AMS 6767

SCALE NW-Series V8(1967/79)

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

~~The central block of the Pearse Farm of The Inn is a good restored example of a Federal period farmhouse of which there are several in Swansea. The typical features are the 2½-story, 5-bay massing with an elliptical fanlight set in a simple, pedimented and columned, central door surround. There are wings setback and flanking the central core. The house was altered in the 1920's for an inn and in the~~

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

The central block of the Pearse Farm of The Inn is a good restored example of a Federal period farmhouse of which there are several in Swansea. The typical features are the 2½-story, 5-bay massing with an elliptical fanlight set in a simple, pedimented and columned, central door surround. There are wings setback and flanking the central core. The house was altered in the 1920's for apartments. Because of these alterations, there are no chimneys in the central core but one is located in each wing.

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

The historical significance of this structure is in the fact that the property was deeded in 1810 by Alexander Gardner to William Pearse. Both of these families are outstanding in the development of Swansea. The Gardners as landowners and farmers important enough that "Gardner's Neck" is a portion of South Swansea. The Pearses of R.I. and Swansea were for generations involved in politics as well as the church. Named after the family, Pearse Road runs from Swansea Center to the Cole River.

William H. Pearse, born at Bristol Ferry, R.I. in 1813, came with his parents, the George Pearses, to his grandfather William's Swansea land in 1816. Through the years the colonial farm once was the residence of many generations of Pearses'. As farmers, they dealt in livestock, principally horses and cattle.

William H. Pearse had been identified with Christ Church in Swansea and a member of the vestry for 35 years. According to Volume II "Southeastern Mass." he was recognized as "a cheerful consistent Christian, fond of society and given to hospitality." The "History of Swansea" tells of his active participation in town affairs and holding the office of Representative of Legislature in 1863. Mr. Pearse enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the townspeople. In the early twenties the farmhouse was referred to as "The Inn." Many summer boarders were lodged for vacation. Then in the thirties, the farmhouse was converted into four apartments, and presently is used as such.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bristol County Records, Taunton, Mass.
- "Representative Men of Old Families of Southeastern, Mass.
- J. M. Bears and Co., Ohio, 1912, Vol. II, pg. 1101
- Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.
- Swansea Library, early maps and taxbooks
- O.O. Wright, "History of Swansea", Swansea, MA., 1917 (p. 183)

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

B

Form no.

23

117



own Swansea

Address 486 Pearse Road

name "The Inn"

Present use Apartments

Present owner Lloyd Kenyon

Description:

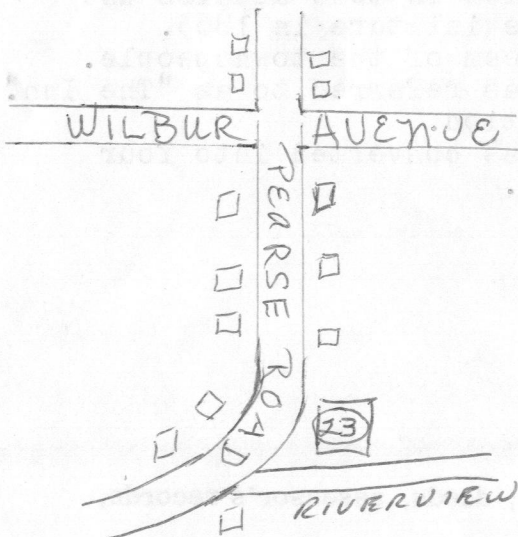
ate c. 1810

Book 101

Source Registry of Deeds, Taunton

yle Colonial farmhouse

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



Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard and wooden shingles

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 2½ story gable, south facing; federal door, central, with 5 bay facade; 2 story wing at each end, chimneys in wings only; semi-circular fan light above front door

Altered Made into Inn Date c.1922

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 17,543 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 168.9'

Approximate distance of building from street

15'

6. Recorded by Ruth M. Doodson

Organization Swansea Historical Society

Date 11/18/78

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Alexander Gardner

Original use Farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates As an Inn, 1922; as apartments, 1930's on

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

William H. Pearse, born at Bristol Ferry, R.I. in 1813, came with his parents, the William G. Pearses' to Swansea in 1816.

This property was deeded to his grandfather, William Pearse, by Alexander Gardner in 1810.

Through the years the colonial farmhouse was the residence of many generations of Pearces'. As farmers, they dealt in livestock, principally horses and cattle.

William H. Pearse was one of the founders of Christ Church in Swansea and a member of the vestry for 35 years. According to Vol. II "Southeastern Mass." he was recognized as "a cheerful consistent Christian, fond of society and given to hospitality". The "History of Swansea" tells of his active participation in town affairs and holding the office of Representative of Legislature in 1863. Mr. Pearse enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the townspeople.

In the early twenties the farmhouse was referred to as "The Inn". Many summer boarders were lodged for vacation.

Then in the thirties, the farmhouse was converted into four apartments, and presently is used as such.

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

Bristol County Records, Taunton, Mass

"Representative Men @ Old Families of Southeastern Mass.

J.H. Beers @ Co., Chic. 1912, Vol. II, pg. 1101

Registry of Deeds, Fall River, Ma.

Swansea Library, early maps and taxbooks

"History of Swansea" p. 183